Encoding Challenges for Hard Problems

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Matryoshka workshop June 12, 2019

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Automated Reasoning Has Many Applications



Breakthrough in SAT Solving in the Last 20 Years

Satisfiability (SAT) problem: Can a Boolean formula be satisfied?

mid '90s: formulas solvable with thousands of variables and clauses now: formulas solvable with millions of variables and clauses





Edmund Clarke: *"a key* technology of the 21st century" [Biere, Heule, vanMaaren, and Walsh '09]

Donald Knuth: "evidently a killer app, because it is key to the solution of so many other problems" [Knuth '15] Representations

Matrix Multiplication

The Collatz Conjecture

 Representations

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The Right Representation is Crucial

What makes a problem hard?

New angle: does the representation enable efficient reasoning?

The famous pigeonhole principle: Can n + 1 pigeons be placed in *n* holes such that no hole contains multiple pigeons?

- Hard for many automated reasoning approaches
- Easy for a little kid given the right representation



 $source: \ pecanpartnership.co.uk/2016/01/05/beware-pigeon-hole-overcoming-stereotypes-build-collaborative-culture$

Artisan Representations (joint work)

Architectural 3D Layout [VSMM '07] Henriette Bier

Edge-matching Puzzles [LaSh '08]

Graceful Graphs [AAAI '10] Toby Walsh

Clique-Width [SAT '13, TOCL '15] Stefan Szeider

Firewall Verification [SSS '16] Mohamed Gouda

Open Knight Tours Moshe Vardi

Van der Waerden numbers [EJoC '07]

Software Model Synthesis [ICGI '10, ESE '13] Sicco Verwer

Conway's Game of Life [EJoC '13] Willem van der Poel

Connect the Pairs Donald Knuth

Pythagorean Triples [SAT '16, CACM '17] Victor Marek

Collatz conjecture [Open] Scott Aaronson

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How to fix a poor representation fully automatically?

Inprocessing [Järvisalo, Heule, and Biere '12]

How to fix a poor representation fully automatically?

Example: Bounded Variable Addition [Manthey, Heule, and Biere '12]

adds 1 variable removes 1 clause

This technique is crucial for hard bioinformatics problems and turns the naive encoding of AtMostOne into the optimal one.

Inprocessing [Järvisalo, Heule, and Biere '12]

How to fix a poor representation fully automatically?

Example: Bounded Variable Addition [Manthey, Heule, and Biere '12]

This technique is crucial for hard bioinformatics problems and turns the naive encoding of AtMostOne into the optimal one.

Matrix Multiplication

joint work with Manuel Kauers and Martina Seidl

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} b_{1,1} & b_{1,2} \\ b_{2,1} & b_{2,2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{1,1} & c_{1,2} \\ c_{2,1} & c_{2,2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$c_{1,1} = a_{1,1} \cdot b_{1,1} + a_{1,2} \cdot b_{2,1}$$

$$c_{1,2} = a_{1,1} \cdot b_{1,2} + a_{1,2} \cdot b_{2,2}$$

$$c_{2,1} = a_{2,1} \cdot b_{1,1} + a_{2,2} \cdot b_{2,1}$$

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$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} b_{1,1} & b_{1,2} \\ b_{2,1} & b_{2,2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{1,1} & c_{1,2} \\ c_{2,1} & c_{2,2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$c_{1,1} = M_1 + M_4 - M_5 + M_7$$

$$c_{1,2} = M_3 + M_5$$

$$c_{2,1} = M_2 + M_4$$

$$c_{2,2} = M_1 - M_2 + M_3 + M_6$$

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$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathsf{a}_{1,1} & \mathsf{a}_{1,2} \\ \mathsf{a}_{2,1} & \mathsf{a}_{2,2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathsf{b}_{1,1} & \mathsf{b}_{1,2} \\ \mathsf{b}_{2,1} & \mathsf{b}_{2,2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathsf{c}_{1,1} & \mathsf{c}_{1,2} \\ \mathsf{c}_{2,1} & \mathsf{c}_{2,2} \end{pmatrix}$$

... where

$$M_{1} = (a_{1,1} + a_{2,2}) \cdot (b_{1,1} + b_{2,2})$$

$$M_{2} = (a_{2,1} + a_{2,2}) \cdot b_{1,1}$$

$$M_{3} = a_{1,1} \cdot (b_{1,2} - b_{2,2})$$

$$M_{4} = a_{2,2} \cdot (b_{2,1} - b_{1,1})$$

$$M_{5} = (a_{1,1} + a_{1,2}) \cdot b_{2,2}$$

$$M_{6} = (a_{2,1} - a_{1,1}) \cdot (b_{1,1} + b_{1,2})$$

$$M_{7} = (a_{1,2} - a_{2,2}) \cdot (b_{2,1} + b_{2,2})$$

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- This scheme needs 7 multiplications instead of 8.
- Recursive application allows to multiply n × n matrices with O(n^{log₂7}) operations in the ground ring.

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- ▶ Let ω be the smallest number so that $n \times n$ matrices can be multiplied using $\mathcal{O}(n^{\omega})$ operations in the ground domain.

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- ► Let *ω* be the smallest number so that *n* × *n* matrices can be multiplied using *O*(*n^ω*) operations in the ground domain.
- Then $2 \le \omega < 3$. What is the exact value?

Efficient Matrix Multiplication: Theory

Strassen 1969:

 $\omega \leq \log_2 7 \leq 2.807$

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Efficient Matrix Multiplication: Theory

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▶ Pan 1978:	$\omega \leq$ 2.796
Bini et al. 1979:	$\omega \leq$ 2.7799
Schönhage 1981:	$\omega \leq$ 2.522
Romani 1982:	$\omega \leq$ 2.517
• Coppersmith/Winograd 1981:	$\omega \leq$ 2.496
Strassen 1986:	$\omega \leq$ 2.479
Coppersmith/Winograd 1990:	$\omega \leq$ 2.376

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Stothers 2010:	$\omega \leq 2.374$
Williams 2011:	$\omega \leq$ 2.3728642
► Le Gall 2014:	$\omega \leq$ 2.3728639

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- Question: What's the minimal number of multiplications needed to multiply two 3 × 3 matrices?

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- Question: What's the minimal number of multiplications needed to multiply two 3 × 3 matrices?
- Answer: Nobody knows.

The 3x3 Case is Still Open

Question: What's the minimal number of multiplications needed to multiply two 3×3 matrices?

naive algorithm: 27

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- naive algorithm: 27
- ▶ padd with zeros, use Strassen twice, cleanup: 25
- best known upper bound: 23 (Laderman 1976)
- best known lower bound: 19 (Bläser 2003)
- maximal number of multiplications allowed if we want to beat Strassen: 21 (because log₃ 21 < log₂ 7 < log₃ 22).

Laderman's scheme from 1976

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & a_{1,3} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} & a_{2,3} \\ a_{3,1} & a_{3,2} & a_{3,3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} b_{1,1} & b_{1,2} & b_{1,3} \\ b_{2,1} & b_{2,2} & b_{2,3} \\ b_{3,1} & b_{3,2} & b_{3,3} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{1,1} & c_{1,2} & c_{1,3} \\ c_{2,1} & c_{2,2} & c_{2,3} \\ c_{3,1} & c_{3,2} & c_{3,3} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} c_{1,1} &= -M_6 + M_{14} + M_{19} \\ c_{2,1} &= M_2 + M_3 + M_4 + M_6 + M_{14} + M_{16} + M_{17} \\ c_{3,1} &= M_6 + M_7 - M_8 + M_{11} + M_{12} + M_{13} - M_{14} \\ c_{1,2} &= M_1 - M_4 + M_5 - M_6 - M_{12} + M_{14} + M_{15} \\ c_{2,2} &= M_2 + M_4 - M_5 + M_6 + M_{20} \\ c_{3,2} &= M_{12} + M_{13} - M_{14} - M_{15} + M_{22} \\ c_{1,3} &= -M_6 - M_7 + M_9 + M_{10} + M_{14} + M_{16} + M_{18} \\ c_{2,3} &= M_{14} + M_{16} + M_{17} + M_{18} + M_{21} \\ c_{3,3} &= M_6 + M_7 - M_8 - M_9 + M_{23} \end{aligned}$$

Laderman's scheme from 1976

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathsf{a}_{1,1} & \mathsf{a}_{1,2} & \mathsf{a}_{1,3} \\ \mathsf{a}_{2,1} & \mathsf{a}_{2,2} & \mathsf{a}_{2,3} \\ \mathsf{a}_{3,1} & \mathsf{a}_{3,2} & \mathsf{a}_{3,3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathsf{b}_{1,1} & \mathsf{b}_{1,2} & \mathsf{b}_{1,3} \\ \mathsf{b}_{2,1} & \mathsf{b}_{2,2} & \mathsf{b}_{2,3} \\ \mathsf{b}_{3,1} & \mathsf{b}_{3,2} & \mathsf{b}_{3,3} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathsf{c}_{1,1} & \mathsf{c}_{1,2} & \mathsf{c}_{1,3} \\ \mathsf{c}_{2,1} & \mathsf{c}_{2,2} & \mathsf{c}_{2,3} \\ \mathsf{c}_{3,1} & \mathsf{c}_{3,2} & \mathsf{c}_{3,3} \end{pmatrix}$$

where . . .

$$\begin{split} M_1 &= (-a_{1,1} + a_{1,2} + a_{1,3} - a_{2,1} + a_{2,2} + a_{3,2} + a_{3,3}) \cdot b_{2,2} \\ M_2 &= (a_{1,1} + a_{2,1}) \cdot (b_{1,2} + b_{2,2}) \\ M_3 &= a_{2,2} \cdot (b_{1,1} - b_{1,2} + b_{2,1} - b_{2,2} - b_{2,3} + b_{3,1} - b_{3,3}) \\ M_4 &= (-a_{1,1} - a_{2,1} + a_{2,2}) \cdot (-b_{1,1} + b_{1,2} + b_{2,2}) \\ M_5 &= (-a_{2,1} + a_{2,2}) \cdot (-b_{1,1} + b_{1,2}) \\ M_6 &= -a_{1,1} \cdot b_{1,1} \\ M_7 &= (a_{1,1} + a_{3,1} + a_{3,2}) \cdot (b_{1,1} - b_{1,3} + b_{2,3}) \\ M_8 &= (a_{1,1} + a_{3,1}) \cdot (-b_{1,3} + b_{2,3}) \\ M_9 &= (a_{3,1} + a_{3,2}) \cdot (b_{1,1} - b_{1,3}) \end{split}$$

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$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & a_{1,3} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} & a_{2,3} \\ a_{3,1} & a_{3,2} & a_{3,3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} b_{1,1} & b_{1,2} & b_{1,3} \\ b_{2,1} & b_{2,2} & b_{2,3} \\ b_{3,1} & b_{3,2} & b_{3,3} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{1,1} & c_{1,2} & c_{1,3} \\ c_{2,1} & c_{2,2} & c_{2,3} \\ c_{3,1} & c_{3,2} & c_{3,3} \end{pmatrix}$$

where . . .

$$\begin{split} &M_{10} = (a_{1,1} + a_{1,2} - a_{1,3} - a_{2,2} + a_{2,3} + a_{3,1} + a_{3,2}) \cdot b_{2,3} \\ &M_{11} = (a_{3,2}) \cdot (-b_{1,1} + b_{1,3} + b_{2,1} - b_{2,2} - b_{2,3} - b_{3,1} + b_{3,2}) \\ &M_{12} = (a_{1,3} + a_{3,2} + a_{3,3}) \cdot (b_{2,2} + b_{3,1} - b_{3,2}) \\ &M_{13} = (a_{1,3} + a_{3,3}) \cdot (-b_{2,2} + b_{3,2}) \\ &M_{14} = a_{1,3} \cdot b_{3,1} \\ &M_{15} = (-a_{3,2} - a_{3,3}) \cdot (-b_{3,1} + b_{3,2}) \\ &M_{16} = (a_{1,3} + a_{2,2} - a_{2,3}) \cdot (b_{2,3} - b_{3,1} + b_{3,3}) \\ &M_{17} = (-a_{1,3} + a_{2,3}) \cdot (b_{2,3} + b_{3,3}) \\ &M_{18} = (a_{2,2} - a_{2,3}) \cdot (b_{3,1} - b_{3,3}) \end{split}$$

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Laderman's scheme from 1976

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & a_{1,3} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} & a_{2,3} \\ a_{3,1} & a_{3,2} & a_{3,3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} b_{1,1} & b_{1,2} & b_{1,3} \\ b_{2,1} & b_{2,2} & b_{2,3} \\ b_{3,1} & b_{3,2} & b_{3,3} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{1,1} & c_{1,2} & c_{1,3} \\ c_{2,1} & c_{2,2} & c_{2,3} \\ c_{3,1} & c_{3,2} & c_{3,3} \end{pmatrix}$$

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where ...

$$\begin{split} M_{19} &= a_{1,2} \cdot b_{2,1} \\ M_{20} &= a_{2,3} \cdot b_{3,2} \\ M_{21} &= a_{2,1} \cdot b_{1,3} \\ M_{22} &= a_{3,1} \cdot b_{1,2} \\ M_{23} &= a_{3,3} \cdot b_{3,3} \end{split}$$

While Strassen's scheme is essentially the only way to do the 2 × 2 case with 7 multiplications, there are several distinct schemes for 3 × 3 matrices using 23 multiplications.

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- ► Using altogether about 35 years of computation time, we found more than 13000 new schemes for 3 × 3 and 23, and we expect that there are many others.

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- ► If we insist in integer coefficients, there have so far (and to our knowledge) been only three other schemes for 3 × 3 matrices and 23 multiplications.
- Using altogether about 35 years of computation time, we found more than 13000 new schemes for 3 × 3 and 23, and we expect that there are many others.
- Unfortunately we found no scheme with only 22 multiplications

How to Search for a Matrix Multiplication Scheme? (1)

$$M_{1} = (\alpha_{1,1}^{(1)}a_{1,1} + \alpha_{1,2}^{(1)}a_{1,2} + \cdots)(\beta_{1,1}^{(1)}b_{1,1} + \cdots)$$

$$M_{2} = (\alpha_{1,1}^{(2)}a_{1,1} + \alpha_{1,2}^{(2)}a_{1,2} + \cdots)(\beta_{1,1}^{(2)}b_{1,1} + \cdots)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$c_{1,1} = \gamma_{1,1}^{(1)}M_{1} + \gamma_{1,1}^{(2)}M_{2} + \cdots$$

$$\vdots$$
Set $c_{i,j} = \sum_{k} a_{i,k}b_{k,j}$ for all i, j and compare coefficients.

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How to Search for a Matrix Multiplication Scheme? (2)

This gives the Brent equations (for 3×3 with 23 multiplications)

$$\forall i, j, k, l, m, n \in \{1, 2, 3\} : \sum_{q=1}^{23} \alpha_{i,j}^{(q)} \beta_{k,l}^{(q)} \gamma_{m,n}^{(q)} = \delta_{j,k} \delta_{i,m} \delta_{l,n}$$

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The $\delta_{u,v}$ on the right refer to the Kronecker-delta, i.e., $\delta_{u,v} = 1$ if u = v and $\delta_{u,v} = 0$ otherwise.

 $3^6 = 729$ cubic equations $23 \cdot 9 \cdot 3 = 621$ variables

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 $3^6 = 729$ cubic equations $23 \cdot 9 \cdot 3 = 621$ variables

Laderman claims that he solved this system by hand, but he doesn't say exactly how.

How to Search for a Matrix Multiplication Scheme? (3)

This gives the Brent equations (for 3×3 with 23 multiplications)

$$\forall i, j, k, l, m, n \in \{1, 2, 3\} : \sum_{q=1}^{23} \alpha_{i,j}^{(q)} \beta_{k,l}^{(q)} \gamma_{m,n}^{(q)} = \delta_{j,k} \delta_{i,m} \delta_{l,n}$$

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The search space of the 3 × 3 case is enormous, even if $\alpha_{i,j}^{(q)}$, $\beta_{k,l}^{(q)}$, $\gamma_{m,n}^{(q)}$ are restricted to the values in $\{-1, 0, 1\}$

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The search space of the 3 × 3 case is enormous, even if $\alpha_{i,j}^{(q)}$, $\beta_{k,l}^{(q)}$, $\gamma_{m,n}^{(q)}$ are restricted to the values in $\{-1, 0, 1\}$

Solution: Solve this system in \mathbb{Z}_2 .

Reading $\alpha_{i,j}^{(q)}$, $\beta_{k,l}^{(q)}$, $\gamma_{m,n}^{(q)}$ as boolean variables and + as XOR, the problem becomes a SAT problem.

Notice that solutions in \mathbb{Z}_2 may not be solutions in \mathbb{Z}

Lifting

Remember the Brent equations:

$$\forall i, j, k, l, m, n \in \{1, 2, 3\} : \sum_{q=1}^{23} \alpha_{i,j}^{(q)} \beta_{k,l}^{(q)} \gamma_{m,n}^{(q)} = \delta_{j,k} \delta_{i,m} \delta_{l,n}$$

- Suppose we know a solution in \mathbb{Z}_2 .
- Assume it came from a solution in \mathbb{Z} with coefficients in $\{-1, 0, +1\}$.
- ▶ Then each $0 \in \mathbb{Z}_2$ was $0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ and each $1 \in \mathbb{Z}_2$ was $-1 \in \mathbb{Z}$ or $+1 \in \mathbb{Z}$.
- ▶ Plug the 0s of the \mathbb{Z}_2 -solution into the Brent equations.
- Solve the resulting equations.

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- ▶ Plug the 0s of the \mathbb{Z}_2 -solution into the Brent equations.
- Solve the resulting equations.

Can every \mathbb{Z}_2 -solution be lifted to a \mathbb{Z} -solution in this way?

- No, and we found some which don't admit a lifting.
- ▶ But they are very rare. In almost all cases, the lifting succeeds.

How to Search for a Matrix Multiplication Scheme? (4)

This gives the Brent equations (for 3×3 with 23 multiplications)

$$\forall i, j, k, l, m, n \in \{1, 2, 3\} : \sum_{q=1}^{23} \alpha_{i,j}^{(q)} \beta_{k,l}^{(q)} \gamma_{m,n}^{(q)} = \delta_{j,k} \delta_{i,m} \delta_{l,n}$$

Another solution: Solve this system by restricting equations with a zero righthand side to zero or two.

Still treat $\alpha_{i,j}^{(q)}$, $\beta_{k,l}^{(q)}$, $\gamma_{m,n}^{(q)}$ as boolean variables.

Notice that this restriction removes solutions, but it even works for Laderman.

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Notice that this restriction removes solutions, but it even works for Laderman.

Important challenge: how to break the symmetries?

Most effective approach so far: sort the $\delta_{j,k}\delta_{i,m}\delta_{l,n} = 1$ terms

Okay, so there are many more matrix multiplication methods for 3 × 3 matrices with 23 coefficient multiplications than previously known.

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- Okay, so there are many more matrix multiplication methods for 3 × 3 matrices with 23 coefficient multiplications than previously known.
- In fact, we have shown that the dimension of the algebraic set defined by the Brent equation is much larger than was previously known.
- But none of this has any immediate implications on the complexity of matrix multiplication, neither theoretically nor practically.
- In particular, it remains open whether there is a multiplication method for 3 × 3 matrices with 22 coefficient multiplications. If you find one, let us know.

Scheme Database

Check out our website for browsing through the schemes and families we found:



http://www.algebra.uni-linz.ac.at/research/matrix-multiplication/

The Collatz Conjecture

joint work with Scott Aaronson

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Beyond NP: The Collatz Conjecture

Resolving foundational algorithm questions

$$Col(n) = \begin{cases} n/2 & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ (3n+1)/2 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

Does while (n > 1) n = Col(n); terminate?

Find a non-negative function fun(n) s.t. $\forall n > 1: fun(n) > fun(Col(n))$



THE COLLATZ CONJECTIVE STATES THAT IF YOU PICK A NUMBER, AND IF IT'S EVEN DIVIDE IT BY TWO AND IF IT'S OD MULTIPY IT BY THEE AND ADD ONE, AND YOU REPEAT THIS PROCEDURE LONG ENOUGH, EVENTUALLY YOUR PRIENDS WILL STOP CALLING IT'S DEF IF YOU WANT TO HANG OUT.

source: xkcd.com/710

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Can we construct a function for which fun(n) > fun(Col(n)) holds? $\frac{fun(3) \quad fun(5) \quad fun(8) \quad fun(4) \quad fun(2) \quad fun(1)}{5 \quad 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \quad 1 \quad 0}$

Given a set of rewriting rules, will rewriting always terminate?

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Example set of rules (Zantema's "other" Problem):

- ▶ $aa \rightarrow_R bc$
- $bb \rightarrow_R ac$
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Strongest rewriting solvers use SAT (e.g. AProVE)

Example first solved by Hofbauer and Waldmann (2006)

Term Rewriting Proof Outline

Prove termination of Zantema's "other" Problem:

- aa \rightarrow_R bc
- $bb \rightarrow_R ac$
- $cc \rightarrow_R ab$

Proof outline:

- ▶ Interpret *a*,*b*,*c* by linear functions [*a*], [*b*], [*c*] from **N**⁴ to **N**⁴
- Interpret string concatenation by function composition
- ▶ Show that if [uaav] $(0, 0, 0, 0) = (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$ and [ubcv] $(0, 0, 0, 0) = (y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4)$ then $x_1 > y_1$
- Similar for $bb \rightarrow ac$ and $cc \rightarrow ab$
- ► Hence every rewrite step gives a decrease of x₁ ∈ N, so rewriting terminates

Term Rewriting Termination Proof

The linear functions:

$$[a](\vec{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \vec{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$[b](\vec{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \vec{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$[c](\vec{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \vec{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Checking decrease properties using linear algebra

Collatz Conjecture (2)

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$$\frac{fun(3) \quad fun(5) \quad fun(8) \quad fun(4) \quad fun(2) \quad fun(1)}{\mathbf{t}(\mathbf{t}(\vec{0})) \quad \mathbf{t}(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{f}(\vec{0}))) \quad \mathbf{t}(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{f}(\vec{0}))) \quad \mathbf{t}(\mathbf{f}(\vec{0})) \quad \mathbf{t}(\vec{f}(\vec{0}))} \quad \mathbf{t}(\vec{f}(\vec{0})) \quad \mathbf{t}(\vec{f}(\vec{0})) \quad \mathbf{t}(\vec{f}(\vec{0}))} \\ \frac{(5)}{(1)} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 4\\1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 3\\1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 2\\1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1\\1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0\\1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{t}(\vec{f}(\vec{0})) \quad \mathbf{t}(\vec{f}(\vec$$

The Collatz Conjecture as Rewriting System

Consider the following functions:

- Binary system: f(x) = 2x, t(x) = 2x + 1
- ▶ Ternary system: p(x) = 3x, q(x) = 3x + 1, r(x) = 3x + 2
- ▶ Start and end symbols: c(x) = 1, d(x) = x

$$\begin{array}{cccc} D_1: \ fd \rightarrow_R d \\ D_2: \ td \rightarrow_R rd \end{array} \begin{array}{cccc} F_1: \ fp \rightarrow_R pf & T_1: \ tp \rightarrow_R qt & C_1: \ cp \rightarrow_R ct \\ F_2: \ fq \rightarrow_R pt & T_2: \ tq \rightarrow_R rf & C_2: \ cq \rightarrow_R cff \\ F_3: \ fr \rightarrow_R qf & T_3: \ tr \rightarrow_R rt & C_3: \ cr \rightarrow_R cft \end{array}$$

Interpretation using the functions above:

 $D_1 : 2x \to x$ $D_2 : 2x + 1 \to 3x + 2 \quad (= (3(2x + 1) + 1)/2)$ $F_1 : 6x \to 6x$ $T_3 : 6x + 5 \to 6x + 5$

Collatz Rewriting Example

$$\begin{array}{cccc} D_1: \ fd \rightarrow_R d \\ D_2: \ td \rightarrow_R rd \end{array} \begin{array}{cccc} F_1: \ fp \rightarrow_R pf & T_1: \ tp \rightarrow_R qt & C_1: \ cp \rightarrow_R ct \\ F_2: \ fq \rightarrow_R pt & T_2: \ tq \rightarrow_R rf & C_2: \ cq \rightarrow_R cff \\ F_3: \ fr \rightarrow_R qf & T_3: \ tr \rightarrow_R rt & C_3: \ cr \rightarrow_R cft \end{array}$$

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Can we prove termination of the Collatz rewriting system?

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Can we prove termination of the Collatz rewriting system?

The full system is still too hard, but subsystems (removing one of the rules) are doable (although not with existing tools).

Results on Proving Termination of Subsystems

missing rule	dimension	value limit	runtime
D_1	3	3	1.40
D_2	1	1	0.00
F_1	4	5	5828.36
F_2	2	3	0.02
F ₃	2	2	0.01
T_1	4	7	25 340.99
T_2	5	7	44 056.35
T_3	4	6	37 071.33
<i>C</i> ₁	2	2	0.01
<i>C</i> ₂	3	4	23.35
<i>C</i> ₃	4	5	75.89

Challenges for Collatz Conjecture

The presented system is just one of many possible rewriting systems that captures the Collatz conjecture.

Which system facilitates efficient reasoning?
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Which SAT solving techniques are effective?

- Surprisingly old SAT solvers work better than new ones
- Can local search be effective (we only look for solutions)?

Encoding Challenges for Hard Problems

Marijn J.H. Heule



Starting at Carnegie Mellon University in August

Matryoshka workshop June 12, 2019