

The fixed point theory of complexity

Yiannis N. Moschovakis
UCLA and University of Athens

a commercial for
Abstract Recursion and Intrinsic Complexity
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Denotational semantics for programming languages

- ▶ Introduced in 1971 by Dana Scott and Christopher Strachey
 - ▶ Assigns to every program E (of a well specified programming language) its **denotation**, the object $\text{den}(E)$ computed by E , typically a function or relation of some sort
 - ▶ The key mathematical tools it uses are **fixed point theorems** in various complete partially ordered sets (**domains**)
 - ▶ It is important because it provides a precise, mathematical **criterion of correctness** for programs, which should compute what we wanted them to compute
 - ▶ It has developed into a rich, intricate mathematical theory, not always easy to apply in specific cases
- ★ *$\text{den}(E)$ gives no information about the complexity of the algorithm expressed by E*

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The Euclidean algorithm for coprimeness

on $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, \dots\}$, with division

$\text{gcd}(x, y) =$ the greatest common divisor of x, y ($x, y \geq 1$)

$x \perp y \iff \text{gcd}(x, y) = 1$

$\text{rem}(x, y) = r \iff [x = yq + r \ \& \ r < y]$, $\text{eq}_w(x) \iff x = w$

```
( $\varepsilon$ )  vars  $x, y$ 
      while ( $y \neq 0$ ) [( $x, y$ ) := ( $y, \text{rem}(x, y)$ )]; return  $\text{eq}_1(x)$ 
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- ▶ If $x, y \geq 1$, then $\text{den}(\varepsilon)(x, y) \iff x \perp y$
- ▶ **Def.** $\text{calls}_\varepsilon(\text{rem})(x, y) =$ the number of divisions
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- ▶ For a fixed $\bar{r} > 0$ and all the Fibonacci numbers F_k with $k \geq 2$, $\text{calls}_\varepsilon(\text{rem})(F_{k+1}, F_k) = k - 1 \geq \bar{r} \log F_{k+1}$
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Intensional properties of programs

- ▶ To extract from a program E many of its **intensional properties** (including complexity functions) using fixed point theory you need to make two moves:

(1) *Identify the **primitives** that E can call*

- ▶ We consider only programs which compute (partial) functions and decide relations on some set A from primitives of the same kind, i.e., programs of a (partial) **first order structure**

$\mathbf{A} = (A, \Phi)$ of **vocabulary** (characteristic, similarity type) Φ

- ▶ For the Euclidean: $\mathbf{A}_\varepsilon = (\mathbb{N}, \text{eq}_0, \text{eq}_1, \text{rem})$

(2) *Translate E faithfully into a **recursive (McCarthy) program of \mathbf{A}** (using routine, well-understood methods)*

(ε) $\text{eq}_1(p(x, y))$ where $\left\{ p(x, y) = \text{if } \text{eq}_0(y) \text{ then } x \text{ else } p(y, \text{rem}(x, y)) \right\}$

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Recursive programs in the vocabulary Φ

- ▶ Φ -terms (pure, explicit, of boolean or ind sort, with rec variables):

$$E ::= \text{tt} \mid \text{ff} \mid v_i \mid \phi(E_1, \dots, E_{n_\phi}) \mid \text{if } E_0 \text{ then } E_1 \text{ else } E_2 \mid q_i^{s,n}(E_1, \dots, E_n)$$

where v_0, v_1, \dots are formal individual variables over A ; each $q_i^{s,n}$ is a formal variable over partial functions on A , of arity n and (boolean or individual) sort s ;

- ▶ Recursive Φ -programs:

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- ▶ Semantics: The body of E defines a system of recursive equations

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$$E \equiv \boxed{E_0(\vec{x}) \text{ where } \left\{ p_1(\vec{x}_1) = E_1(\vec{x}_1), \dots, p_K(\vec{x}_K) = E_K(\vec{x}_K) \right\}}$$

where each E_i is a Φ -term whose **individual variables** are in the list \vec{x}_i (with $\vec{x}_0 = \vec{x}$) and its **recursive variables** are among p_1, \dots, p_K, \dots

- ▶ **Semantics**: The **body** of E defines a system of **recursive equations**

$$\boxed{p_1(\vec{x}_1) = f_1(\vec{x}_1, \vec{p}), \dots, p_K(\vec{x}_K) = f_K(\vec{x}_K, \vec{p}_K)} ;$$

this has **least solutions** $\vec{p}_1, \dots, \vec{p}_K$; and $\text{den}(E)$ is the partial function defined by plugging these solutions in the **head** $E_0(\vec{x})$

Recursive programs in the vocabulary Φ

- ▶ Φ -terms (pure, explicit, of boolean or ind sort, with **rec variables**):

$$E ::= \text{tt} \mid \text{ff} \mid v_i \mid \phi(E_1, \dots, E_{n_\phi}) \mid \text{if } E_0 \text{ then } E_1 \text{ else } E_2 \mid q_i^{s,n}(E_1, \dots, E_n)$$

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The mergesort algorithm

- ▶ Suppose L is ordered by \leq , L^* is the set of all sequences from L , $\mathbf{L}^*_{ms} = (\mathbf{L}^*, \text{half}_1, \text{half}_2, \leq)$ is the indicated expansion of the standard Lisp structure \mathbf{L}^* and consider the recursive program $p(u)$ where $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} p(u) = \text{if } (\text{tail}(u) = \text{nil}) \text{ then } u \text{ else } q(p(\text{half}_1(u)), p(\text{half}_2(u))), \\ q(w, v) = \text{if } (w = \text{nil}) \text{ then } v \text{ else if } (v = \text{nil}) \text{ then } w \\ \quad \text{else if } (\text{head}(w) \leq \text{head}(v)) \text{ then } \text{cons}(\text{head}(w), q(\text{tail}(w), v)) \\ \quad \text{else } \text{cons}(\text{head}(v), q(w, \text{tail}(v))) \end{array} \right\}$

which expresses the mergesort algorithm on \mathbf{L}^*_{ms}

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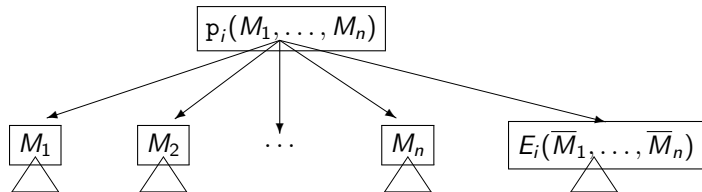
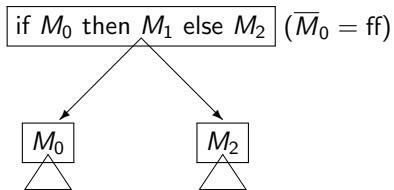
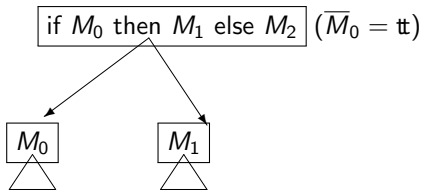
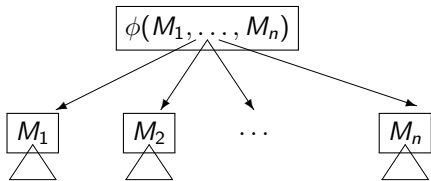
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► $D(M)$ is the depth of the **computation tree** for M

Complexity inequalities and Tserunyan's Theorem

- ▶ For a fixed Φ -structure \mathbf{A} and a recursive Φ -program E



where $\text{calls} = \text{calls}(\Phi)$, $d(\vec{x}) = D(E_0(\vec{x}))$ and $\ell = \text{largest arity in } E$

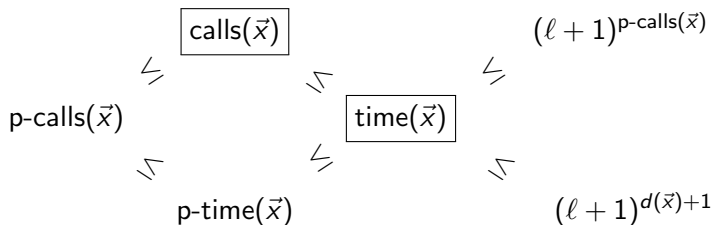
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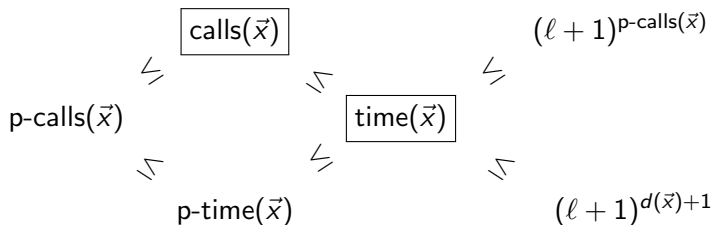
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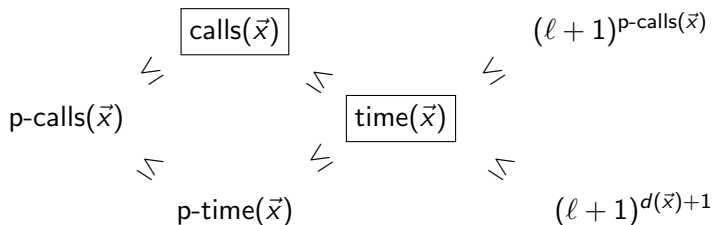
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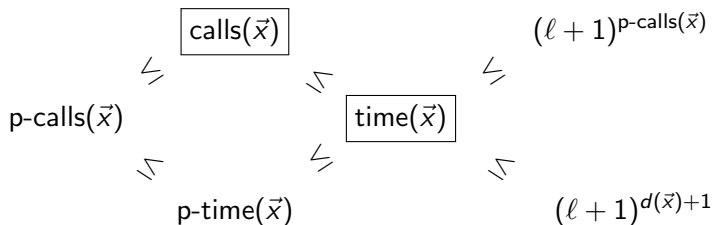
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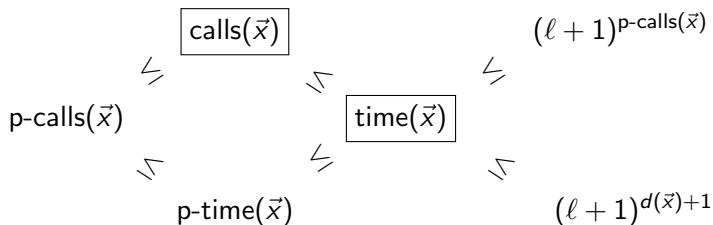
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