

Realizability in Cyclic Proof

Extracting Ordering Information for Infinite Descent

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Motivation: Program Termination

```
struct ll { int data; ll *next; }

void rev(ll *x) { /* reverses list */ }
void shuffle(ll *x) {
    if ( x != NULL ) {

        ll *y = x -> next;

        rev(y);

        shuffle(y);
    }
}
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struct ll { int data; ll *next; }  
list(x,n)  $\Leftrightarrow (n = 0 \wedge x = \text{NULL}) \vee \text{list}(x \rightarrow \text{next}, n - 1)$   
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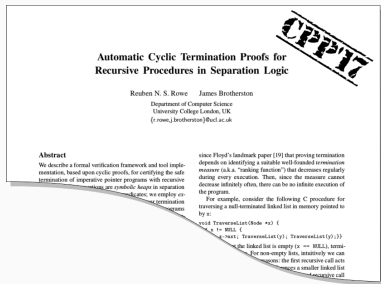
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struct ll { int data; ll *next; }  
list(x)  $\Leftrightarrow (n = 0 \wedge x = \text{NULL}) \vee \text{list}(x \rightarrow \text{next})$   
void rev(ll *x) { list $_{\alpha}$ (x) } { ... } { list $_{\alpha}$ (x) }  
void shuffle(ll *x) { list $_{\alpha}$ (x) } {  
  if ( x != NULL ) {  
    { list $_{\beta}$ (x->next)  $\wedge \beta < \alpha$  }  
    ll *y = x -> next;  
    { y = x->next  $\wedge$  list $_{\beta}$ (y)  $\wedge \beta < \alpha$  }  
    rev(y);  
    { y = x->next  $\wedge$  list $_{\beta}$ (y)  $\wedge \beta < \alpha$  }  
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  }  
} { list $_{\alpha}$ (x) }
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void rev(ll *x) { list $\alpha$ (x) } { ... } { list $\alpha$ (x) }  
void shuffle(ll *x) { list(y) } { ... } { list(y) }
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Intra-procedural analysis produces verification conditions, in the form of *entailments*, e.g.

$$x \neq \text{NULL} \wedge y = x \rightarrow \text{next} \wedge \text{list}(y) \vdash \text{list}(x)$$

Automatic Cyclic Termination Proofs for Recursive Procedures in Separation Logic

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... framework and tool implementations, for certifying the safety of recursive programs with recursive invariants. In particular, we employ cyclic termination proofs to certify recursive programs

since Floyd's landmark paper [19] that proving termination depends on identifying a suitable well-founded termination measure (a.k.a. "ranking function") that decreases regularly during every execution. Thus, since the measure cannot decrease infinitely often, there can be no infinite execution of the program.

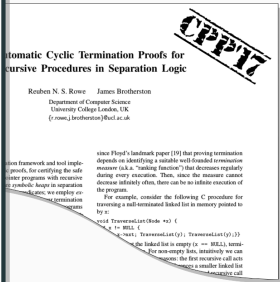
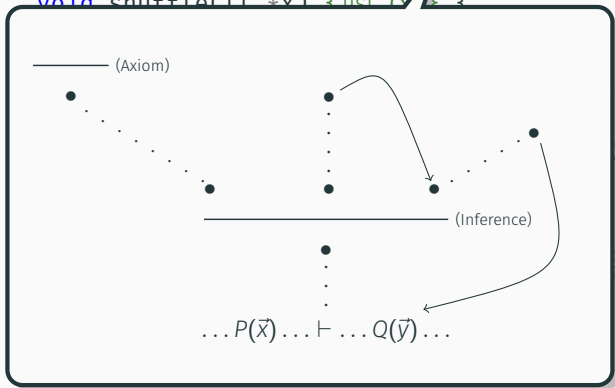
For example, consider the following C procedure for traversing a null-terminated linked list in memory pointed to by x :

```
void TraverseListNode *p) {  
  if (p == NULL) {  
    *p = next; TraverseList(y); TraverseList(y); }  
  // the linked list is empty (i.e. == NULL), terminate.  
  // For non-empty lists, intuitively we can suggest: the first recursive call acts on a smaller linked list (i.e. the recursive call
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Motivation: Program Termination

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struct ll { int data; ll *next; }  
list(x) ⇔ (n = 0 ∧ x = NULL) ∨ list(x->next)  
void rev(ll *x) { listα(x) } { ... } { listα(x) }  
void shuffle(ll *x) { list(y) } { ... } { list(y) }
```

(Axiom)

$$Q(\vec{y}) \leq? P(\vec{x})$$

... P(\vec{x}) ... ⊢ ... Q(\vec{y}) ...

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For example, consider the following C procedure for traversing a null-terminated linked list in memory pointed to by x :

```
void TraverseListNode (x) {  
  if (x == NULL) {  
    return;  
  }  
  TraverseList(x->next);  
  printf("%d\n", x->data);  
}
```

For non-empty lists, intuitively we can suggest: the first recursive call acts on a smaller linked list than the original call.

CPP17

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$$\dots P(\vec{x}) \dots \vdash \dots Q(\vec{y}) \dots$$

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For example, consider the following C procedure for traversing a null-terminated linked list in memory pointed to by x :

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We show that:

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 - These inclusions hold when the proof graph satisfies a structural (realizability) condition that we define
- The realizability condition is equivalent to a **containment** between two weighted automata that can be constructed from the proof graph

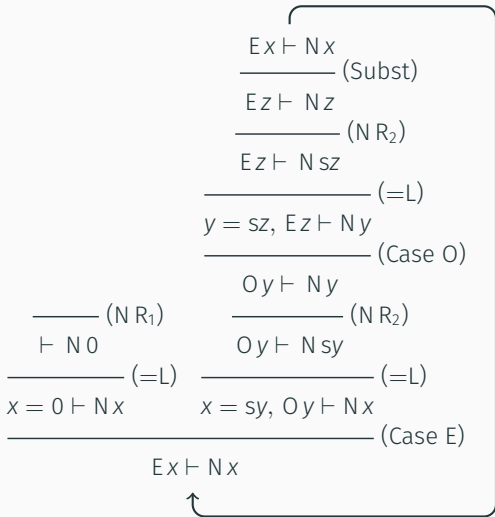
Overview of Results

We show that:

- Information about semantic inclusions between inductive predicates can be extracted from **cyclic** proofs of entailments
 - These inclusions hold when the proof graph satisfies a structural (realizability) condition that we define
- The realizability condition is equivalent to a **containment** between two weighted automata that can be constructed from the proof graph
 - Under certain extra structural conditions, this containment falls within existing decidability results

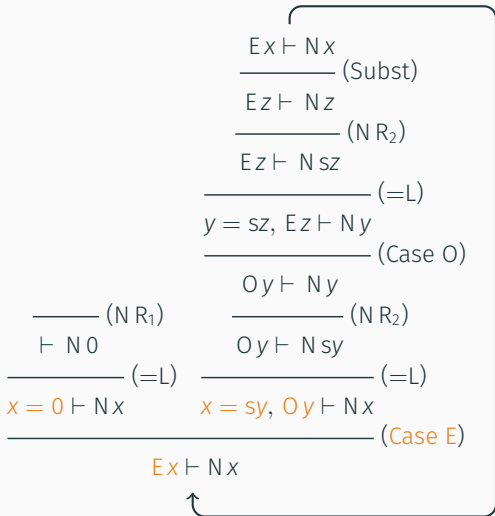
A Cyclic Proof in LK Sequent Calculus with Equality

$\Rightarrow N0$
 $Nx \Rightarrow Nsx$
 $\Rightarrow E0$
 $Ox \Rightarrow Esx$
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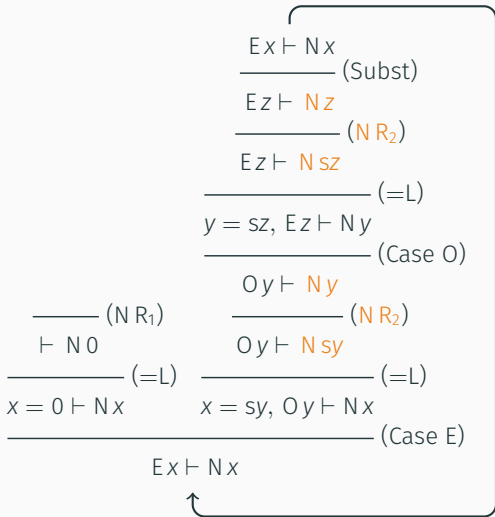
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$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{}{\vdash N0} \text{(NR}_1\text{)} \\
 \frac{}{x = 0 \vdash Nx} \text{(=L)} \\
 \frac{}{Oy \vdash Ny} \text{(NR}_2\text{)} \\
 \frac{}{Oy \vdash Nsy} \text{(=L)} \\
 \frac{}{x = sy, Oy \vdash Nx} \text{(Case E)} \\
 \frac{}{Ex \vdash Nx} \text{(Case O)}
 \end{array}$$

The proof is cyclic. The sequent $Ex \vdash Nx$ is derived from $Ex \vdash Nx$ via the (Subst) rule. The (Case O) rule is highlighted in orange.

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 $N x \Rightarrow N s x$
 $\Rightarrow E 0$
 $O x \Rightarrow E s x$
 $E x \Rightarrow O s x$



A Cyclic Proof in LK Sequent Calculus with Equality

A cyclic proof graph is **globally sound** when every infinite path (going from conclusion to premise) is eventually followed by a **trace** of predicate formulas (on the left-hand side of sequents) which **progresses** (through a case-split) **infinitely often**

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 \hline
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{Ex \vdash Nx}{\vdash Nz} \text{ (Subst)} \\
 \frac{}{Ez \vdash Nz} \text{ (NR}_2\text{)} \\
 \frac{}{Ez \vdash Nsz} \text{ (=L)} \\
 \frac{y = sz, Ez \vdash Ny}{\vdash Ny} \text{ (Case O)} \\
 \frac{Oy \vdash Ny}{\vdash Nsy} \text{ (NR}_2\text{)} \\
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 \frac{y = s z, E z \vdash N y}{\vdash N y} \text{ (Case O)} \\
 \frac{O y \vdash N y}{\vdash N y} \text{ (NR}_2\text{)} \\
 \frac{O y \vdash N s y}{\vdash N s y} \text{ (=L)} \\
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$E x \vdash N x$

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 \frac{E x \vdash N x}{E z \vdash N z} \text{ (Subst)} \\
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(Case O)

(Case E)

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$$\frac{}{\vdash N 0} (N R_1) \quad \frac{}{O y \vdash N y} (N R_2) \quad \frac{}{O y \vdash N s y} (N R_2)$$

$$\frac{}{x = 0 \vdash N x} (=L) \quad \frac{}{x = s y, O y \vdash N x} (=L)$$

$$\frac{}{E x \vdash N x} (Case E)$$

$$\frac{E x \vdash N x}{E z \vdash N z} (Subst)$$

$$\frac{}{E z \vdash N s z} (N R_2)$$

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$$\frac{}{} (Case O)$$

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$Ex \vdash Nx$

Inductive Predicate Definitions and their Semantics

Definition (Inductive Definition Set)

An *inductive definition set* contains productions $P_1 \vec{t}_1, \dots, P_j \vec{t}_j \Rightarrow P_0 \vec{t}_0$

Definition (Characteristic Operators)

Inductive definition sets Φ induce *characteristic operators* φ_Φ on predicate interpretations X (functions from predicate formulas to sets of models):

$$\varphi_\Phi(X)(P \vec{t} \theta) = \{m \mid P_1 \vec{t}_1, \dots, P_j \vec{t}_j \Rightarrow P \vec{t} \in \Phi, m \in X(P_i \vec{t}_i \theta) \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq j\}$$

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We interpret predicates using the least fixed point, $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_\Phi \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mu X. \varphi_\Phi(X)$

$$X_\perp \sqsubseteq \varphi_\Phi(X_\perp) \sqsubseteq \varphi_\Phi(\varphi_\Phi(X_\perp)) \sqsubseteq \dots \sqsubseteq \varphi_\Phi^\alpha(X_\perp) \sqsubseteq \dots \sqsubseteq \mu X. \varphi_\Phi(X)$$

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$$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_0^\Phi \sqsubseteq \llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_1^\Phi \sqsubseteq \llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_2^\Phi \sqsubseteq \dots \sqsubseteq \llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_\alpha^\Phi \sqsubseteq \dots \llbracket \cdot \rrbracket^\Phi$$

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- By **local** soundness of the inference rules, we obtain an infinite sequence of counter-models for some infinite path in the proof
 - Each model can be mapped to an ever smaller approximation $\llbracket P \vec{t} \rrbracket_{\alpha}^{\Phi}$ in which it appears
 - These **strictly** decrease over a case-split

Cyclic Proof Formalises Infinite Descent

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 - These **strictly** decrease over a case-split
- By **global** soundness of the proof, this gives an infinitely descending chain in $(\mathcal{X}, \sqsubseteq)$
 - But $(\mathcal{X}, \sqsubseteq)$ is a well-ordered set \Rightarrow contradiction!

Extracting Semantic Orderings from Cyclic Proofs

The inductive definitions/semantics give immediately, e.g.

$$\forall m, \alpha : m \in \llbracket \text{Esx} \rrbracket_\alpha \Rightarrow m \in \llbracket \text{Ox} \rrbracket_\alpha$$

and even

$$\forall m, \alpha : m \in \llbracket \text{Esx} \rrbracket_\alpha \Rightarrow \exists \beta < \alpha. m \in \llbracket \text{Ox} \rrbracket_\beta$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{N0}$$

$$\text{Nx} \Rightarrow \text{Nsx}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{E0}$$

$$\text{Ox} \Rightarrow \text{Esx}$$

$$\text{Ex} \Rightarrow \text{Osx}$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash \text{N0}} \text{(NR}_1\text{)}$$

$$\frac{}{x = 0 \vdash \text{Nx}} \text{(=L)}$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash \text{Nx}} \text{(Case E)}$$

$$\frac{\text{Ex} \vdash \text{Nx}}{} \text{(Subst)}$$

$$\frac{\text{Ez} \vdash \text{Nz}}{} \text{(NR}_2\text{)}$$

$$\frac{\text{Ez} \vdash \text{Nsx}}{} \text{(=L)}$$

$$\frac{y = sx, \text{Ez} \vdash \text{Ny}}{} \text{(Case O)}$$

$$\frac{\text{Oy} \vdash \text{Ny}}{} \text{(NR}_2\text{)}$$

$$\frac{\text{Oy} \vdash \text{Nsy}}{} \text{(=L)}$$

$$\frac{x = sy, \text{Oy} \vdash \text{Nx}}{} \text{(Case E)}$$

$$\text{Ex} \vdash \text{Nx}$$

Extracting Semantic Orderings from Cyclic Proofs

The global soundness already gives

$$\forall m : m \in \llbracket Ex \rrbracket \Rightarrow m \in \llbracket Nx \rrbracket$$

but we would also like to know whether

$$\forall m, \alpha : m \in \llbracket Ex \rrbracket_\alpha \Rightarrow m \in \llbracket Nx \rrbracket_\alpha$$

i.e. $Nx \leq Ex$

$$\Rightarrow N0$$

$$Nx \Rightarrow Nsx$$

$$\Rightarrow E0$$

$$Ox \Rightarrow Esx$$

$$Ex \Rightarrow Osx$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash N0} \text{ (NR}_1\text{)}$$

$$\frac{}{x = 0 \vdash Nx} \text{ (=L)}$$

$$\frac{}{Ex \vdash Nx} \text{ (Case E)}$$

$$\frac{Ex \vdash Nx}{Ez \vdash Nz} \text{ (Subst)}$$

$$\frac{Ez \vdash Nz}{Ez \vdash Nsz} \text{ (NR}_2\text{)}$$

$$\frac{Ez \vdash Nsz}{y = sz, Ez \vdash Ny} \text{ (=L)}$$

$$\frac{y = sz, Ez \vdash Ny}{Oy \vdash Ny} \text{ (Case O)}$$

$$\frac{Oy \vdash Ny}{Oy \vdash Nsy} \text{ (NR}_2\text{)}$$

$$\frac{Oy \vdash Nsy}{x = sy, Oy \vdash Nx} \text{ (=L)}$$

$$\frac{x = sy, Oy \vdash Nx}{Ex \vdash Nx} \text{ (Case E)}$$

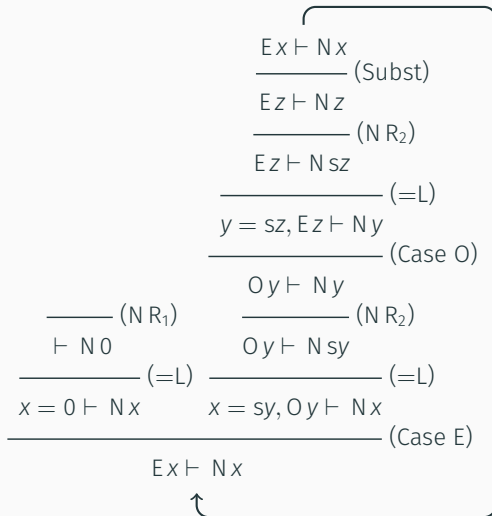
Extracting Semantic Orderings: Basic Ideas

To extract these semantic relationships from cyclic proofs:

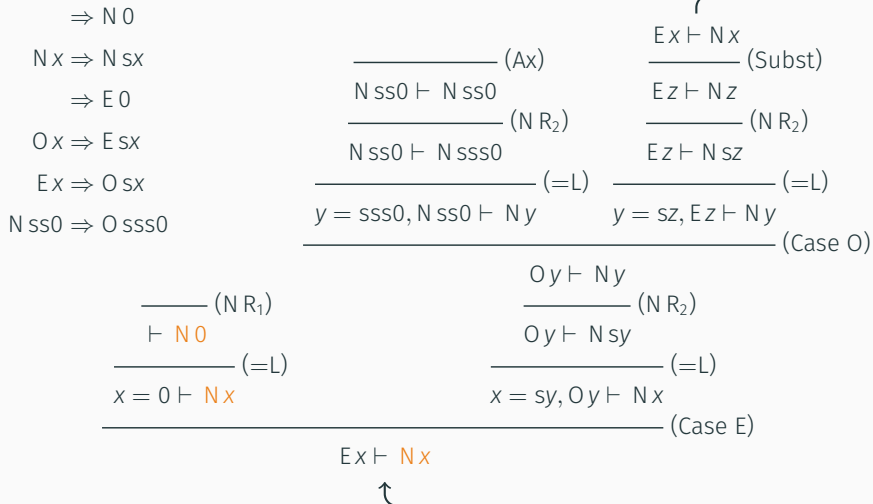
- We have to consider traces along the **right-hand** side of sequents, which are
 - **maximally** finite
 - matched by some left-hand trace along the same path
- We then count the number of times each trace **progresses**
 - the left-hand one must progress **at least as often** as the right-hand one

Extracting Semantic Orderings: Example

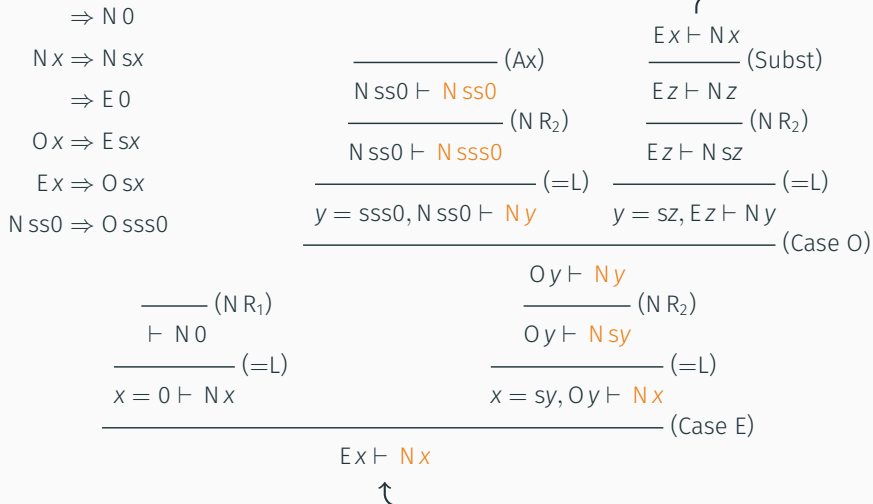
$\Rightarrow N 0$
 $N x \Rightarrow N s x$
 $\Rightarrow E 0$
 $O x \Rightarrow E s x$
 $E x \Rightarrow O s x$



Extracting Semantic Orderings: Example



Extracting Semantic Orderings: Example

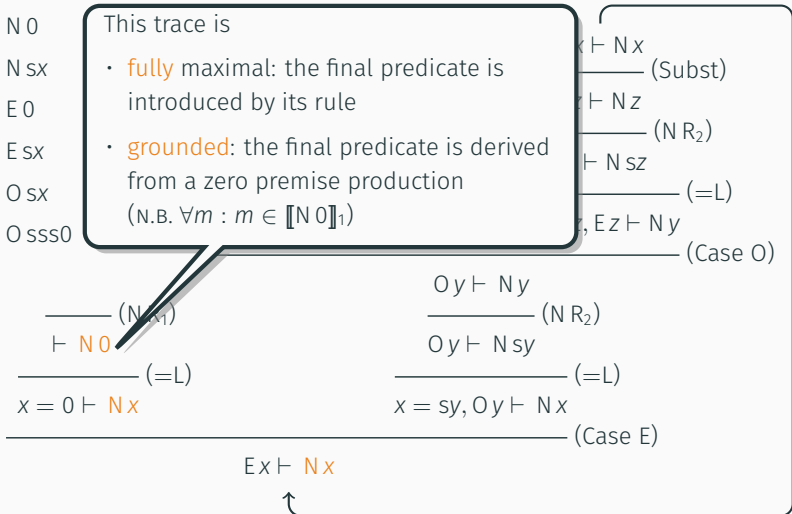


Extracting Semantic Orderings: Example

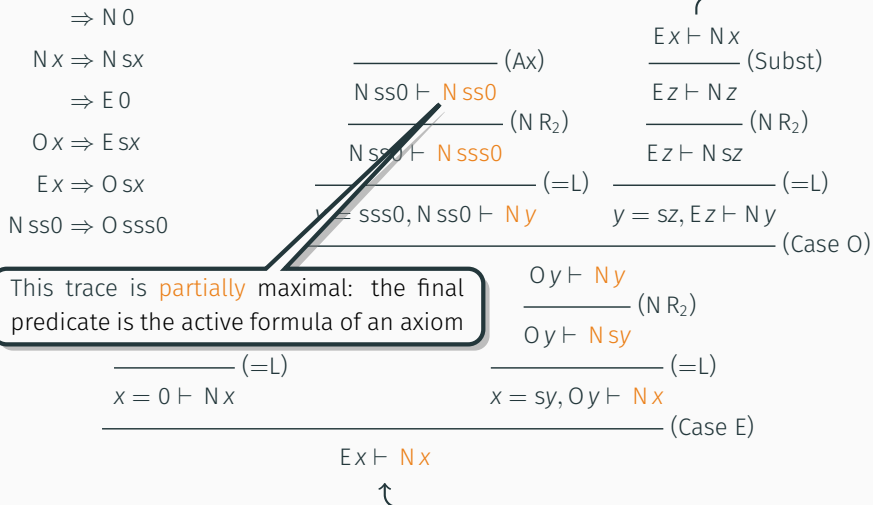
$\Rightarrow N 0$
 $N x \Rightarrow N s x$
 $\Rightarrow E 0$
 $O x \Rightarrow E s x$
 $E x \Rightarrow O s x$
 $N s s 0 \Rightarrow O s s s 0$

This trace is

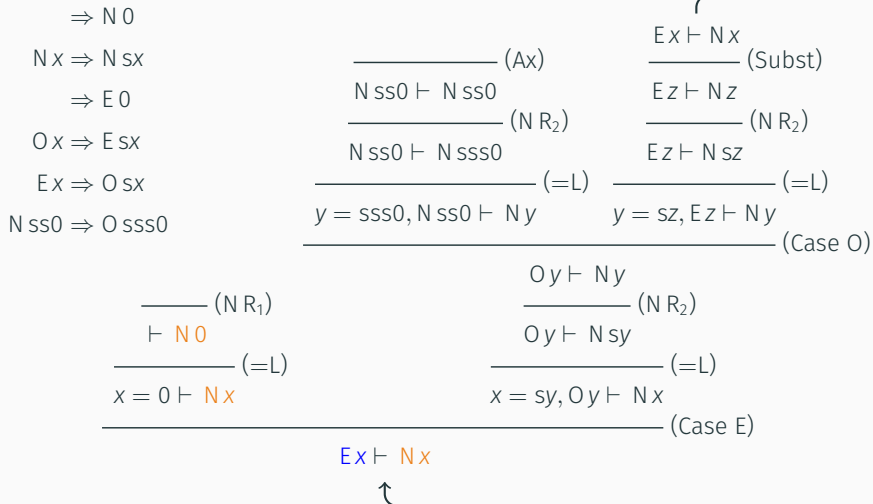
- **fully** maximal: the final predicate is introduced by its rule
- **grounded**: the final predicate is derived from a zero premise production (N.B. $\forall m : m \in \llbracket N 0 \rrbracket_1$)



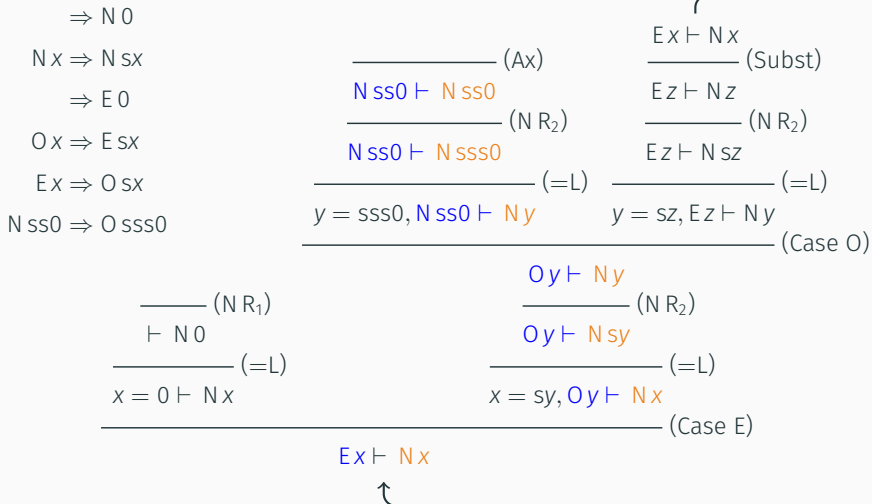
Extracting Semantic Orderings: Example



Extracting Semantic Orderings: Example



Extracting Semantic Orderings: Example



Definition (Realizability Condition)

For every maximal right-hand trace, there must exist a left-hand trace following some prefix of the same path such that:

- either the right-hand trace is grounded, or it is partially maximal with the left-hand trace matching in the length and final predicate
- right unfoldings \leq left unfoldings

Soundness of the Realizability Condition

Theorem

Suppose \mathcal{P} is a cyclic proof of $P\vec{x} \vdash Q\vec{y}$ satisfying the realizability condition, then $\llbracket P\vec{x} \rrbracket_\alpha \subseteq \llbracket Q\vec{y} \rrbracket_\alpha$, for all α (i.e. $Q\vec{y} \leq P\vec{x}$)

Proof.

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Proof.

Pick a model $m \in \llbracket P\vec{x} \rrbracket_\alpha$ (i.e. $\exists \beta \leq \alpha : m \in \llbracket P\vec{x} \rrbracket_\beta$)

- m corresponds to a maximal right-hand trace in \mathcal{P}
- Since \mathcal{P} is a proof $P\vec{x} \vdash Q\vec{y}$ is valid, in particular $m \in \llbracket Q\vec{y} \rrbracket$
- The number of unfoldings in this right-hand trace is an **upper** bound on the least approximation $\llbracket Q\vec{y} \rrbracket_\gamma$ containing m
- The number of unfoldings in any left-hand trace following the same path is a **lower** bound on the least approximation $\llbracket P\vec{x} \rrbracket_\delta$ containing m
- From the realizability condition, we have that $\delta \geq \gamma$

Weighted Automata

Definition (Weighted Automata)

Let Σ be an alphabet, and (V, \oplus, \otimes) a semiring of weights. A weighted automaton \mathcal{A} is a tuple (Q, q_I, F, γ) consisting of a set Q of states containing an initial state $q_I \in Q$, a set $F \subseteq Q$ of final states, and a weighted transition function $\gamma : (Q \times \Sigma \times Q) \rightarrow V$.

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1. The value of a run of \mathcal{A} is the semiring product of all its transitions
2. The value of a word is the semiring sum of all runs accepting that word
3. The quantitative language $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}$ is the function $\Sigma^* \rightarrow V$ computed by \mathcal{A}

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$\mathcal{L}_1 \leq \mathcal{L}_2$ if and only if for every word w such that $\mathcal{L}_1(w)$ is defined, $\mathcal{L}_2(w)$ is also defined and $\mathcal{L}_1(w) \leq \mathcal{L}_2(w)$

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Sum automata are weighted automata over $(\mathbb{N}, +, \max)$

Weighted Automata: Results

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Given two quantitative languages (weighted automata) \mathcal{L}_1 and \mathcal{L}_2 , it is undecidable whether $\mathcal{L}_1 \leq \mathcal{L}_2$ (Krob '94, Almagor Et Al. '11)

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Definition

A weighted automaton is called **finite-valued** if there exists a bound on the number of distinct values of accepting runs on any given word

Theorem

Given two finite-valued weighted automata \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} , it is decidable whether $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}} \leq \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{B}}$ (Filiot, Gentilini & Raskin '14)

Weighted Automata from Cyclic Entailment Proofs

Given a cyclic entailment proof \mathcal{P} , we can construct two kinds of finite-valued sum automata, $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{P}}[n]$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) and $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{P}}$, which count the unfoldings in left- and right-hand traces, respectively:

- The words accepted are paths in the proof from the root sequent
- The value of a path is the maximum number of unfoldings in the traces along the path
 - $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{P}}$ only counts traces following the full path
 - the $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{P}}[n]$ count traces following any prefix of the path
- Each $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{P}}[n]$ considers only a **subset** of the paths in the proof
 - A complete automaton can be constructed but is not, in general, finite-valued
- $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{P}}$ is grounded when all final states correspond to ground predicate instances

Deciding the Realizability Condition

The construction of the weighted automata allows the following result:

Theorem

*Let \mathcal{P} be a cyclic entailment proof which is **dynamic** and **balanced**; then \mathcal{P} satisfies the realizability condition if and only if $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{P}} \leq \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{P}}[N]$ and $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{P}}$ is grounded (where N is a function of \mathcal{P})*

- The properties of **balance** and **dynamism** are additional structural properties of the cycles in \mathcal{P} which ensure completeness of the bound N
- The bound N is a function of graph-theoretic quantities relating to the cycles in proofs¹

¹More details in the paper and technical report!

Conclusions

- We have shown that information about inclusions between the semantics of inductive predicates can be extracted from cyclic proofs of entailments
- This information can be used to construct ranking functions for programs
- Our results are formulated abstractly, and so hold for any cyclic proof system whose rules satisfy certain properties (e.g. separation logic)
- We use the term **realizability** because we extract semantic information from the proofs

Future Work

- Implement the decision procedure within the cyclic proof-based verification framework CYCLIST
- Evaluate to what extent entailments found ‘in the wild’ satisfy the realizability condition
- Extend the results to better handle cuts in proofs
- Investigate further theoretical questions:
 - are there weaker structural properties of proofs that still admit completeness with the approximate automata
 - If the semantic inclusion $\llbracket P\vec{x} \rrbracket_\alpha \subseteq \llbracket Q\vec{y} \rrbracket_\alpha$ holds, is there a cyclic proof of $P\vec{x} \vdash Q\vec{y}$ satisfying the realizability condition?

Bootstrapping Cyclic Entailment Systems

Suppose we can deduce from a proof of $\Gamma, P\vec{t} \vdash \Sigma, Q\vec{u}$ that $Q\vec{u} \leq P\vec{t}$

Then we can safely form a well-founded trace across the active formula

$$\frac{\Gamma, P\vec{t} \vdash \Sigma, Q\vec{u} \quad Q\vec{u}, \Pi \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma, P\vec{t}, \Pi \vdash \Sigma, \Delta}$$

This is explicitly forbidden in existing cyclic proof systems, precisely because there is no way to ensure in general that there is an inclusion between $\llbracket P\vec{t} \rrbracket_\alpha$ and $\llbracket Q\vec{u} \rrbracket_\alpha$

Thus, our results can be used to bootstrap and enhance cyclic entailment systems themselves