

# Reducing the Complexity of Quantified Formulas via Variable Elimination

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# Motivation

Modelling with **Quantifiers**

Quantifier **blasting** vs. Quantifier **engine**

**Reduced/Minimal** Quantifier **blasting** vs. **Heuristic instantiation**

# Example

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} c_1 \neq c_2 \\ \forall x \mid f(x) = f(c_1) \\ \forall y \mid \neg p(y, c_3) \vee f(y) = c_2 \\ f(c_4) = c_1 \end{array} \right\} A$$

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$$\left. \begin{array}{l} fGT(f, 1) \supseteq \{c_1, c_4\}, \\ fGT(p, 1) \supseteq \emptyset, \\ vGT(x) = fGT(f, 1), \\ vGT(y) = fGT(f, 1), vGT(y) = fGT(p, 1) \end{array} \right\} \text{Instantiation sets}$$

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$$M(c_1) = 1, M(c_2) = 2, M(c_3) = 3, M(c_4) = 4$$

$$M(f)(v) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } v = 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } v = 4 \\ 2 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$M^\pi(c_1) = 1, M^\pi(c_2) = 2, M^\pi(c_3) = 3, M^\pi(c_4) = 4$$

$$M^\pi(f)(v) = \begin{cases} M(f)(v) & \text{if } v \in \{1, 4\} \\ M(f)(M(c_1)) & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

# Example

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- What if  $f$  or  $p$  are interpreted?
- Assume that  $p$  is " $\leq$ ",
  - $A$  becomes unsat, but  $A^{inst}$  stays sat
  - To detect unsat an additional  $gt$ , such that  $\neg(gt \leq c_3)$ , is needed
  - Exp.  $\forall GT(y) = \{c_1, c_4, c_3 - 1\}$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 f(c_1) = f(c_4) \wedge f(c_4) = c_1 \wedge c_1 \neq c_2 &\Rightarrow f(c_1) \neq c_2 \\
 f(c_1) = f(c_3 - 1) \wedge f(c_3 - 1) = c_2 &\Rightarrow f(c_1) = c_2
 \end{aligned}$$

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$$M'(c_1) = 1, M'(c_2) = 2, M'(c_3) = 0, M'(c_4) = 4, M'(f) \equiv 1$$

- What if  $f$  or  $p$  are interpreted?
- Assume that  $p$  is " $\leq$ ",
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  - Exp.  $\forall GT(y) = \{c_1, c_4, c_3 - 1\}$

# Sufficient Ground Term Sets

## Definition

Given a variable  $x$  in an SMT formula  $A$  (in CNF), a set of ground terms  $S \subseteq \mathcal{H}(A)$ <sup>1</sup> is *sufficient* for  $x$  w.r.t a theory  $\mathcal{T}$  if  $A$  and  $A[S/x]$  are equisatisfiable modulo  $\mathcal{T}$ .

- $\mathcal{H}(A)$  is always a sufficient set of ground terms (Gödel-Herbrand-Skolem)
- $\mathcal{H}(A)$  is usually infinite
- When can we find a finite sufficient ground term set for  $x$ ?
- How can we calculate it?

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<sup>1</sup>  $\mathcal{H}(A)$  means the Herbrand universe of  $A$

# System of Set Constraints

Given a formula  $A$  we construct a system of set constraints  $\mathcal{S}_A$

- over ground term set variables  $vGT(x)$ , for each variable  $x$  in  $A$ ,
- and  $fGT(f, i)$ , for each function  $f$  and argument position  $i$
- The solution of  $\mathcal{S}_A$  is an assignment
  - of ground term sets  $vGT(x)_{\mathcal{S}_A}$  to each set variable  $vGT(x)$ ,
  - such that all constraints in  $\mathcal{S}_A$  hold

# Rules for $\mathcal{S}_A$

$$R_0: \frac{x \in C}{vGT(x) \neq \emptyset}$$

$$R_1: \frac{f(\dots, \overset{i\text{-th}}{x}, \dots) \in C}{vGT(x) = fGT(f, i)}$$

$$R_2: \frac{f(\dots, \overset{i\text{-th}}{gt}, \dots) \in C}{gt \in fGT(f, i)}$$

$$R_3: \frac{f(\dots, \overset{i\text{-th}}{t[x_{1:n}]}, \dots) \in C}{t[vGT(x_1)/x_1, \dots, vGT(x_n)/x_n] \subseteq fGT(f, i)}$$

$$R_4: \frac{op(\dots, x, \dots) \in C, op \notin \{=, <, \leq, >, \geq\}}{vGT(x) = \infty}$$

$$R_5: \frac{op(x, y) \in C, op \in \{=, <, \leq, >, \geq\}}{vGT(x) = \infty \quad vGT(y) = \infty}$$

$$R_6: \frac{(x \leq gt) \in C}{gt + 1 \in vGT(x)}$$

$$R_7: \frac{(x \geq gt) \in C}{gt - 1 \in vGT(x)}$$

$$R_8: \frac{\neg op(x, gt) \in C, \text{ where } op \in \{\leq, \geq\}}{gt \in vGT(x)}$$

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$$R_{11}: \frac{op(x, gt) \in C, \text{ where } op \in \{<, >\}}{gt \in vGT(x)}$$

$$R_{12}: \frac{\neg(x = gt) \in C}{gt \in vGT(x)}$$

$$R_{13}: \frac{(x = gt) \in C, x \in \mathbb{Z}}{\{gt - 1, gt + 1\} \subseteq vGT(x)}$$

$$R_{14}: \frac{(x = gt) \in C, x \notin \mathbb{Z}}{vGT(x) = \infty}$$



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# Calculation of the $vGT(x)_{S_A}$

$$R_4: \frac{op(\dots, x, \dots) \in C, op \notin \{=, <, \leq, >, \geq\}}{vGT(x) = \infty} \quad R_5: \frac{op(x, y) \in C, op \in \{=, <, \leq, >, \geq\}}{vGT(x) = \infty \quad vGT(y) = \infty}$$

$$R_{14}: \frac{(x = gt) \in C, x \notin \mathbb{Z}}{vGT(x) = \infty}$$

Two objectives:

- Detection of infinite  $vGT(x)_{S_A}$  sets
  - Direct – by  $R_{4,5,14}$

# Calculation of the $vGT(x)_{S_A}$

$$R_1: \frac{f(\dots, \overbrace{x}^{\text{i-th}}, \dots) \in C}{vGT(x) = fGT(f, i)}$$

$$R_3: \frac{f(\dots, \overbrace{t[x_{1:n}]}^{\text{i-th}}, \dots) \in C}{t[vGT(x_1)/x_1, \dots, vGT(x_n)/x_n] \subseteq fGT(f, i)}$$

Two objectives:

- Detection of infinite  $vGT(x)_{S_A}$  sets
  - Direct – by  $R_{4,5,14}$
  - Propagation – by  $R_{1,3}$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 t[vGT(x)/x] & \xrightarrow{\subseteq} & fGT(f, i) \\
 \begin{array}{c} \text{=}_{S_A} \\ \downarrow \end{array} & & \begin{array}{c} \text{=}_{S_A} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \\
 fGT(g, j) & \xrightarrow{\supseteq} & s[vGT(y)/y]
 \end{array}$$

# Calculation of the $vGT(x)_{S_A}$

$$R_2: \frac{f(\dots, \overbrace{gt}^{\text{i-th}}, \dots) \in C}{gt \in fGT(f, i)} \quad R_6: \frac{(x \leq gt) \in C}{gt + 1 \in vGT(x)} \quad \dots \quad R_{13}: \frac{(x = gt) \in C, x \in \mathbb{Z}}{\{gt - 1, gt + 1\} \subseteq vGT(x)}$$

Two objectives:

- Detection of infinite  $vGT(x)_{S_A}$  sets
  - Direct – by  $R_{4,5,14}$
  - Propagation – by  $R_{1,3}$
- Calculation/Construction of the  $vGT(x)_{S_A}$  sets:
  - Basic ground terms – by  $R_{2,6-13}$

# Calculation of the $vGT(x)_{S_A}$

$$R_3: \frac{f(\dots, \overbrace{t[x_{1:n}]}^{\text{i-th}}, \dots) \in C}{t[vGT(x_1)/x_1, \dots, vGT(x_n)/x_n] \subseteq fGT(f, i)}$$

Two objectives:

- Detection of infinite  $vGT(x)_{S_A}$  sets
  - Direct – by  $R_{4,5,14}$
  - Propagation – by  $R_{1,3}$
- Calculation/Construction of the  $vGT(x)_{S_A}$  sets:
  - Basic ground terms – by  $R_{2,6-13}$
  - Complex ground terms – by  $R_3$

# Eliminable Variables

## Theorem (Main Theorem)

*Let  $x$  be a variable in  $A$  with  $vGT(x)_{S_A} \neq \infty$ , then  $A$  and  $A[vGT(x)_{S_A}/x]$  are equisatisfiable.*

- “ $\Rightarrow$ ”: easy
- “ $\Leftarrow$ ”: If  $A[vGT(x)_{S_A}/x]$  is satisfiable with a model  $\mathcal{M}$ , then we construct a modified model  $\mathcal{M}^{\pi_x}$  (next slides) and show that  $\mathcal{M}^{\pi_x}$  satisfies  $A$ .



## Construction of $\mathcal{M}^{\pi_x}$

Given a model  $\mathcal{M}$  for the formula  $A[vGT(x)_{S_A}/x]$ , we construct a modified model  $\mathcal{M}^{\pi_x}$  as follows:

- $|\mathcal{M}^{\pi_x}| := |\mathcal{M}|$
- For any constant  $c \in Con$ ,  $\mathcal{M}^{\pi_x}(c) := \mathcal{M}(c)$
- For any interpreted operator  $op$ ,  $\mathcal{M}^{\pi_x}(op) := \mathcal{M}(op)$
- For any uninterpreted function  $f$ ,  
 $\mathcal{M}^{\pi_x}(f)(v_{1:n}) := \mathcal{M}(f)(\pi_x(f, 1)(v_1), \dots, \pi_x(f, n)(v_n))$ , where

$$\pi_x(f, i)(v) = \begin{cases} v & \text{if } fGT(f, i)_{S_A} \not\stackrel{!}{=} vGT(x)_{S_A} \\ v & \text{else if } v \in M(fGT(f, i)_{S_A}) \\ v' \in M(fGT(f, i)_{S_A}) & \text{else if } v \notin \mathbb{Z} \\ v' \in M(fGT(f, i)_{S_A}), \text{ s.t. } |v - v'| \text{ is minimal} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

## Optimization: *Selected Variable Elimination*

Let  $\forall x \mid (\psi(x) \vee \forall y, z \mid \varphi(x, y, z))$  be a formula  $A$ ,  
 $vGT(z)_{S_A} = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$ ,  
 $vGT(y)_{S_A} = \{b_1, \dots, b_m\}$  and  
 $vGT(x)_{S_A} = \infty$ . Then eliminating  $z$  and  $y$  results in  $A^{inst}$ :

$$\forall x \mid (\psi(x) \vee (\bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq m} \bigwedge_{1 \leq j \leq n} \varphi(x, b_i, a_j)))$$

- $A^{inst}$  is still quantified and thus considered by the quantifier engine
- The *occurrence increase* of  $x$  in  $A^{inst}$  is  $n * m$
- Further instantiation of  $x$  becomes very costly

# Optimization: *Selected Variable Elimination*

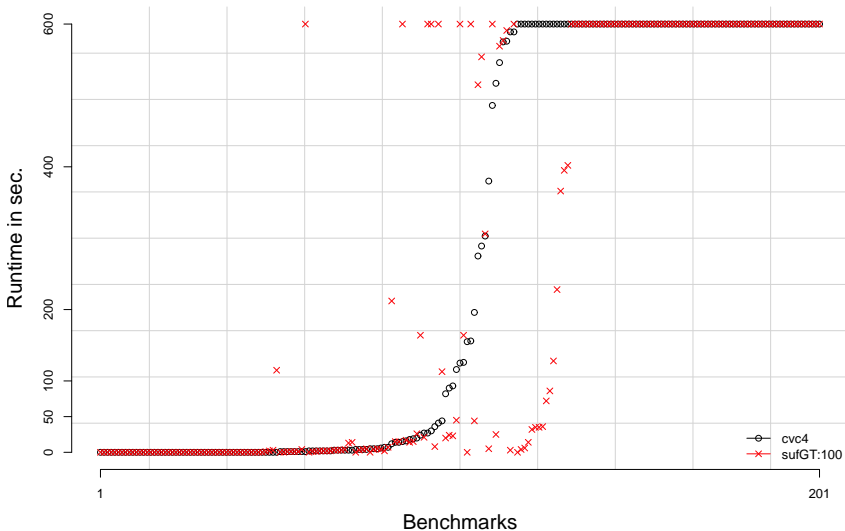
## Definition

Let  $A$  be a formula and  $S = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subseteq \{x \text{ in } A \mid vGT(x)_{S_A} \neq \infty\}$  a set of eliminable variables. The occurrence increase of quantified variables caused by eliminating all  $x_i$  in  $S$  is defined as:

$$C(S) := \max_{y \in A} \left( \frac{|\text{occurr}(y, A[vGT(x_1)/x_1, \dots, vGT(x_n)/x_n])|}{|\text{occurr}(y, A)|} \right)$$

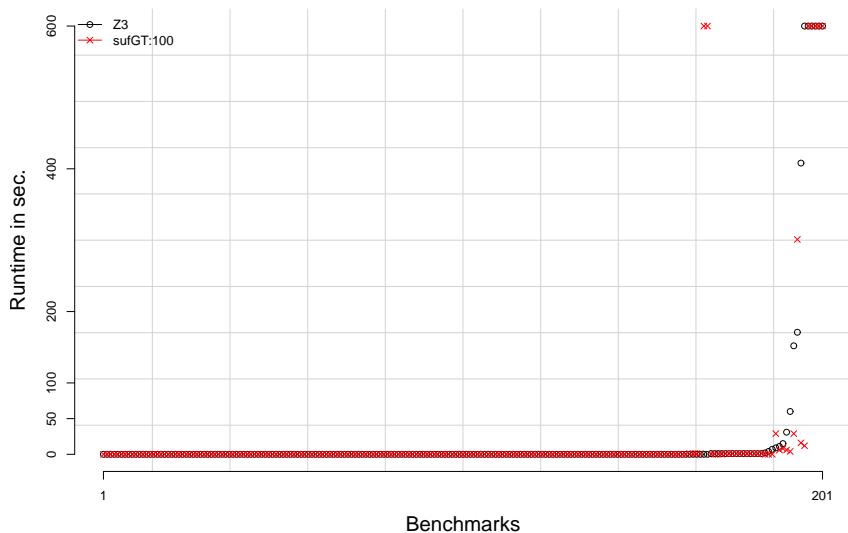
- $C(S)$  is our elimination cost function for the variables in  $S$
- Given  $C_{max}$ , we search for the maximal  $S$  such that  $C(S) < C_{max}$

# Evaluation: *CVC4* vs. *CVC4+sufGT* <sub>$C_{max}=100$</sub>



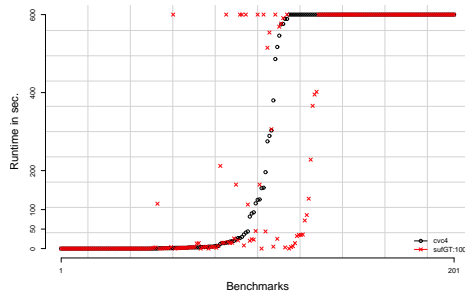
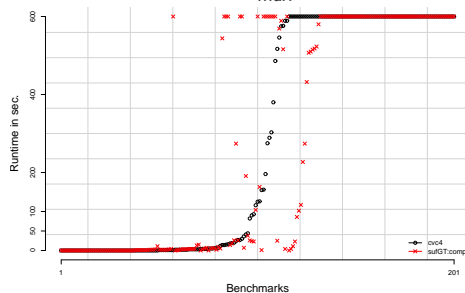
time-impr	avg-speedup	time-out-impr
39/32	57x/0.48x	15/9

# Evaluation: $Z3$ vs. $Z3+sufGT_{C_{max}=100}$

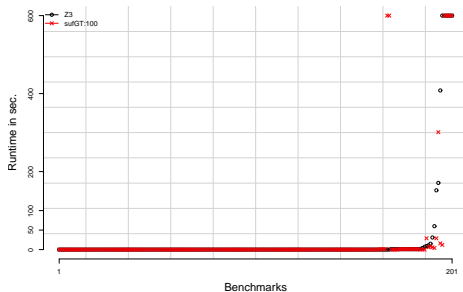
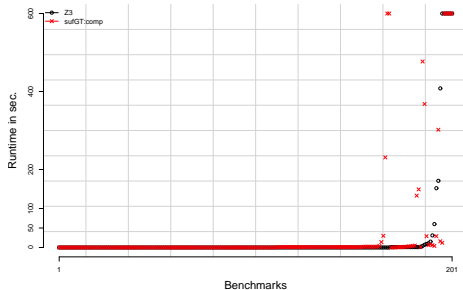


time-impr	avg-speedup	time-out-impr
14/8	9.4x/0.35x	1/2

# Evaluation: $\text{CVC4} - \text{sufGT}_{C_{\max}=\infty}$ vs. $\text{sufGT}_{C_{\max}=100}$



# Evaluation: $Z3 - sufGT_{C_{max}=\infty}$ vs. $sufGT_{C_{max}=100}$



# Related work

- *Array Property Fragment*

[Aaron R. Bradley, Zohar Manna, Henny B. Sipma]

- Supports a combination of theories, *PA* for index terms, and *EUf* for array terms
- Based on instantiation over ground terms
- The results are restricted to the Array Property fragment ( $\approx$  subsumed by ours)
- No partial elimination

- *Model Based Quantifier Instantiation* (MBQI)

[Yeting Ge, Leonardo de Moura]

- Uses a similar system of set constraints  $\Delta_F$  for the ground term sets ( $\approx$  subsumes ours)
- No upfront calculation of  $\Delta_F$
- In theory, a fair enumeration of the (least) solution of  $\Delta_F$  is proposed
- Uses a (finite) model checker to explore the space of models incrementally



# Conclusion

- A general simplification for quantified SMT formulas
  - Detection/Computation of (finite) sufficient ground term sets
  - Variable centric
  - Proved sound
  - Minimality of the constructed sets stays an open question
- Optimization is essential for practical application
  - Used the increase of variable occurrences as elimination cost
  - Use/Evaluation of other cost functions is possible

# Conclusion

- The Experiment results show:
  - Some SMT benchmarks contain many eliminable variables w.r.t. our technique
  - The complete variable instantiation may slow down the solvers
  - Instantiation plus prioritization shows improvement of time and score.
- Calculation of minimal bounds – *future work*
- Extension of arbitrary SMTs with quantifier support – *future work*

## Backup Slides

# Evaluation: $\text{sufGT}_{C_{max}=\infty}$ vs. $\text{sufGT}_{C_{max}=100}$

	Using CVC4	
	$C_{max} = \infty$	$C_{max} = 100$
time-imp	37/55	39/32
avg-speedup	49x/0.45x	57x/0.48x
time-out-imp	16/15	15/9

	Using Z3	
	$C_{max} = \infty$	$C_{max} = 100$
time-imp	11/70	14/8
avg-speedup	10x/0.38x	9.4x/0.35x
time-out-imp	1/2	1/2