

Quantifier Elimination Over the Integers

Symposium on Symbolic Computation and Beyond:
Celebrating Dongming Wang's Contributions

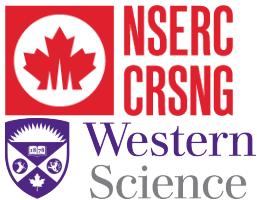
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Joint work with:

Rui-Juan Jing, Yuzhuo Lei and Chirantan Mukherjee

June 28, 2026



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- 3 This talk is based on collaborations with Maplesoft, MIT/CSAIL, NVIDIA, Intel and IBM Canada, with funding support from Maplesoft, MITACS, IBM and NSERC of Canada.
- 4 Many of the algorithms presented in this tutorial are implemented in MAPLE's PolyhedralSets library.

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- ③ Dongming and I share interests in the applications of polynomial system solving, in particular taking advantages of regular chains/sets/systems. This talk is yet another one.

Plan

1. Overview
2. Basic concepts
3. Quantifier elimination over the integers
4. Integer projection
5. Experimentation
6. Concluding remarks

Dependence analysis

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for(int i = 0; i < n; i++)  
  for(int j = i + 1; j < n; j ++)  
    A[i * n + j] = A[(n * j - n + j - i - 1)];
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- 1 Can we **parallelize** the two for-loops?
- 2 Is there **data dependence** between two different iterations of the nest?
- 3 Are there **integer solutions** to the following semi-algebraic system?

$$\begin{aligned}0 &\leq i_1 < n \\i_1 + 1 &\leq j_1 < n \\0 &\leq i_2 < n \\i_2 + 1 &\leq j_2 < n \\i_1 n + j_1 &= n j_2 - n + j_2 - i_2 - 1\end{aligned}$$

- 4 Unfortunately, such a problem is not decidable in general.

Delinearize the array accesses

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Delinearized multi-dimensional array

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- 1 The second system is solvable over the integers
- 2 There is **no integer solution**, therefore, **no dependencies**
- 3 The problem of **delinearization** requires to do QE over \mathbb{Z} for non-linear expressions, if performed at compile time.
- 4 But at run time, n is known and the problem becomes linear.
- 5 Alternatively, one can use evaluation-interpolation techniques. More on this in [5]

Quantifier elimination

Input

Consider a formula in prenex normal form,

$$F = Q_1 x_1 \dots Q_m x_m \phi(x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n)$$

where:

- 1 Q_1, \dots, Q_m is a sequence of quantifiers (existential \exists or universal \forall),
- 2 x_1, \dots, x_m are bound variables,
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Possible output

- 1 **A sample point:** a tuple of values for (y_1, \dots, y_n) making F true, if such a tuple exists, false otherwise,
- 2 **An equivalent formula:** describing the set $D(y_1, \dots, y_n)$ consisting of all tuples of values for (y_1, \dots, y_n) making F true.

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- 5 Can we eliminate a sequence of existential quantifiers for LIA in the sense of computing a formula in single exponential time?

Applications

- ▶ Optimizing Compilers:
 - ▶ Array Dependence Analysis
 - ▶ Polyhedral frameworks (GCC's Graphite [24], LLVM's Polly [9]).
- ▶ Program Verification:
 - ▶ Stanford Pascal Verifier [20]
 - ▶ CompCert [18]
- ▶ Theorem Proving:
 - ▶ SAT/SMT Solvers (Z3 [22], CVC5 [1])
 - ▶ Proof Assistants (Coq [4], Isabelle [23], HOL Light [12], Lean [21]).

Software Implementations

- ▶ ISL (Integer Set Library) [29]
- ▶ TaPAS (Talence Presburger Arithmetic Suite) [17]
- ▶ Yices [8]
- ▶ Princess (Scala Theorem Prover) [27]
- ▶ Our Software, see the ISSAC 2025 software demo.

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- 5 Experimental results are provided.

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$$P = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d \mid A\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{b}\}$$

holds, for a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$ and a vector $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$, where $m \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}$;

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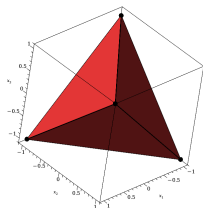
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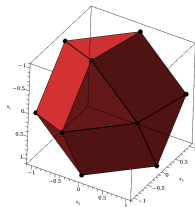
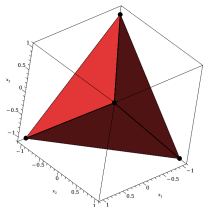
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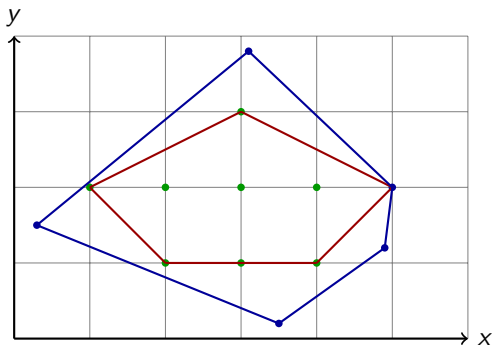


Integer hulls and lattices

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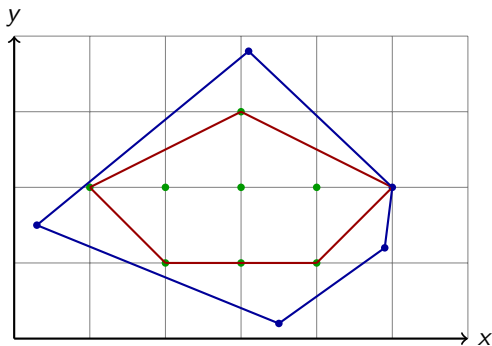
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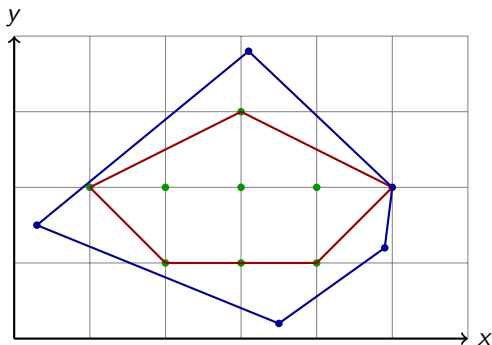
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- 3 It is convenient to see this lattice as the solution set of the systems of congruence relations $\mathbf{x} \equiv \mathbf{b} \pmod{A}$.

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 - a it is non-empty, and P is given by a system of linear inequalities of the form

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} a_0 \leq x_1 \leq b_0 \\ a_1 \leq x_2 \leq b_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_{n-1} \leq x_d \leq b_{n-1}, \end{array} \right. \quad (2.1)$$

where

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 - a it is non-empty, and P is given by a system of linear inequalities of the form

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- 3 The algorithm **IntegerPointDecomposition** [16] decomposes any \mathbb{Z} -polyhedron into **normalized** \mathbb{Z} -polyhedra.

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Theorem 1 (parametric multivariate CRT)

The values of (w_1, \dots, w_ν) for which the above system has solutions form a lattice of \mathbb{Z}^ν . Moreover, for each value of (w_1, \dots, w_ν) , the \mathbf{z} -solutions form a lattice of \mathbb{Z}^n .

Proof.

Compute the Hermite normal forms of the appropriate matrices. □

Plan

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2. Basic concepts
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Presburger arithmetic

The language of **Presburger arithmetic** is:

- ① the first-order theory of the integers with addition, equality and order
- ② extended by the divisibility predicates $D_k : x \mapsto k \mid x$, for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$.

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A **Presburger formula F in prenex normal form** has the form:

$$F = Q_1 x_1 \cdots Q_m x_m \phi(x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n),$$

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Quantifier elimination (1/2)

Theorem 2

Presburger arithmetic admits quantifier elimination.

Proof.

- 1 See the thesis of Mojżesz Presburger [28], the paper of David Cooper [7], and Christoph Haase's **Survival Guide to Presburger Arithmetic** [10].
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Our goal is to determine the set $D(y_1, \dots, y_n) \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^n$ of **ALL** integer tuples of (y_1, \dots, y_n) for which the formula $F(x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n)$ is true.

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 - Ⓒ Whenever possible, we should make use of rules like:

$$\forall x_1 \cdots \forall x_m C \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_m \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{q} \Rightarrow C = \mathbf{0} \wedge \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{0}, \quad (3.1)$$

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Coarsening the atoms

Remark 2

In Cooper's algorithm [7], when processing $\exists x_1 F'$, the formula F' uses the following four types of atoms:

$A_y < ax_1$, $ax_1 < A_y$, $k \mid (ax_1 + A_y)$, and $\neg(k \mid (ax_1 + A_y))$, (3.2)
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where $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $A_y \in \mathbb{Z}[y_1, \dots, y_n]$ is a linear polynomial.

Remark 3

We can rearrange our quantifier-free formula to:

$$\phi(x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n) = \bigvee_i Z_i(x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n), \quad (3.3)$$

where each Z_i is a predicate of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_m \\ y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{Z}\text{Polyhedron}(P_i, L_i), \quad (3.4)$$

for some polyhedron P_i and some integer lattice L_i .

We call such a predicate a **\mathbb{Z} -polyhedron predicate**.

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Integer projection: $n = 1$

Remark 4

- ① *From the above section, we consider the formula*
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- 2 We want the values of $\mathbf{y} = y_1, \dots, y_n$ so that $\exists x \phi(x, y_1, \dots, y_n)$ holds.
- 3 We can further reduce the problem as follows.

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- 1 From the above section, we consider the formula $\exists x \phi(x, y_1, \dots, y_n)$, where $\phi(x, y_1, \dots, y_n) = \bigvee_i \phi_i(x, y_1, \dots, y_n)$, where $\phi_i(x, y_1, \dots, y_n)$ is a conjunction of congruence relations and non-strict inequalities.
- 2 We want the values of $\mathbf{y} = y_1, \dots, y_n$ so that $\exists x \phi(x, y_1, \dots, y_n)$ holds.
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- 3 We shall determine the set $D(\mathbf{y})$ of integer tuples (y_1, \dots, y_n) for which $F(\mathbf{y})$ holds. We call $D(\mathbf{y})$ the **integer projection** of $F(\mathbf{y})$.

Integer projection: $n = 1$, removing congruences

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- 7 If that process **solves for x** , then our problem becomes that of describing the points of a \mathbb{Z} -polyhedron, which can be done by our IntegerPointDecomposition.
- 8 If that process **does not solve for x** , then go to next slide.

Integer projection: $n = 1$, no congruences, 2 inequalities

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- 3 We also write:

$$A = A_{\mathbf{y}} - a x, \quad \text{and} \quad B = -B_{\mathbf{y}} + b x, \quad (4.1)$$

where $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ are non-zero and where $A_{\mathbf{y}}, B_{\mathbf{y}} \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{y}]$ are linear

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- 8 Then, we present a second one based on William Pugh's Omega test [25, 26].

Williams-style Projection

Recall that our input formula is now:

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Theorem 3

Let $\ell = \text{lcm}(a, b)$, $b' = \ell/a$ and $a' = \ell/b$. For $0 \leq k < b$, define

$$E_k := \{\mathbf{y} \mid \text{rem}(B_{\mathbf{y}}, b) = k\}.$$

Then, $F(\mathbf{y})$ is equivalent to:

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- 3 Hence, $F(\mathbf{y})$ says that a multiple of ℓ lies between $b'A_{\mathbf{y}}$ and $a'B_{\mathbf{y}}$.
- 4 Thus, $F(\mathbf{y}) \iff b'A_{\mathbf{y}} \leq a'B_{\mathbf{y}} - \text{rem}(a'B_{\mathbf{y}}, \ell)$.
- 5 That is, $F(\mathbf{y}) \iff b'A_{\mathbf{y}} \leq a'(B_{\mathbf{y}} - \text{rem}(B_{\mathbf{y}}, b))$.

Pugh's omega test (1/2)

Lemma 4 (William Pugh)

If we have:

$$aB_{\mathbf{y}} - bA_{\mathbf{y}} \geq (a-1)(b-1) \tag{4.3}$$

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⑥ From the above two inequalities, elementary manipulations yield:

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⑦ Therefore, if the above inequality does not hold, that is, if $aB_y - bA_y \geq (a-1)(b-1)$ does hold, then I contains an integer.

Pugh's omega test (2/2)

Theorem 5

Define $\kappa(a, b) := \frac{(a-1)(b-1)}{a}$.

Then, Formula $F(\mathbf{y})$ is equivalent to:

$$((a-1)(b-1) \leq aB_{\mathbf{y}} - bA_{\mathbf{y}}) \bigvee \bigvee_{k=0}^{\lfloor \kappa(a,b) \rfloor + 1} (\mathbf{y} \in E_k) \wedge (a'k \leq a'B_{\mathbf{y}} - b'A_{\mathbf{y}}). \quad (4.7)$$

Proof.

This is a direct consequence of William Pugh's lemma and Harris Williams' projection formula □

Remark 8

- 1 William Pugh's lemma reduces significantly the number of "cuts"
- 2 For instance, if $a = 2$ holds and b is odd, then we have $\lfloor \kappa(a, b) \rfloor + 1 = \frac{b+1}{2}$. Consequently, about half of the cuts are avoided.

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- 2 Initialize $D(\mathbf{y})$ to true.
- 3 For each pair (A, B) consisting of a lower bound and an upper bound of x , replace $D(\mathbf{y})$ with $D(\mathbf{y}) \wedge \text{Projection}(A, B)$, where $\text{Projection}(A, B)$ is given by Pugh's omega test.

Integer projection: $n = 1$, s inequalities

We now describe a procedure $\text{Projection}(f_1, \dots, f_s; x)$ computing $D(\mathbf{y})$.

- 1 If f_1, \dots, f_s only count lower (resp. upper) bounds for x , then return true.
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- 4 Convert $D(\mathbf{y})$ to DNF yielding a formula of the form

$$S_0 \vee (C_1 \wedge S_1) \vee \dots \vee (C_e \wedge S_e) \quad (4.8)$$

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- c S_0 is the conjunction of the $((a-1)(b-1) \leq aB_y - bA_y)$, for all pairs (A, B) of lower and upper bounds of x .

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Experimentation

Two strategies for integer projection

- ① **IPD:** the one presented in this paper and based on the `IntegerPointDecomposition` algorithm [14],
- ② **NIP:** one based on `NumberOfIntegerPoints` [14] and thus a parametric adaptation of **Barvinok's algorithm** [3, 19, 30].

Sources of test cases

- ① examples from the literature (mainly from compiler theory)
- ② examples from the SMT-LIA category of the SMT-LIB data-base [2],

Our code can be accessed [here](#).

test	IPD MEMORY(MB)	IPD TIME(s)	NIP MEMORY(MB)	NIP TIME(s)
T1[BoGoWo17]	24.232	0.121	33.811	0.193
T2[BoGoWo17]	57.843	0.281	59.136	0.344
T3[BoGoWo17]	121.978	0.671	189.439	1.256
T4[BoGoWo17]	42.531	0.240	65.162	0.378
T5[BoGoWo17]	22.114	0.110	31.725	0.167
T6[SeLoMe12]	97.739	0.481	64.456	0.333
T7[St23]	671.154	3.506	1066.889	6.608
T8[KVeWo08]	69.087	0.338	58.668	0.328
T9[KVeWo08]	245.156	1.235	979.964	6.462
T17[BoGoWo17]	5.315	0.043	12.771	0.060
T18[CaLiZh22]	39.055	0.200	48.237	0.205
T19[Fe88]	355.466	1.786	1715.958	10.941
T20[Ve24]	25.453	0.154	28.667	0.180
T32[SeLoMe12]	28216.613	156.989	> 10 GB	> 600
T33[SeLoMe12]	70.135	0.351	345.340	1.920
T34[SeLoMe12]	178.657	0.928	366.935	2.487
T35[SeLoMe12]	121.098	0.645	165.582	1.053
T36[SeLoMe12]	1243.682	6.209	798.004	4.822
T44[Ve24]	1.549	0.013	1.550	0.014
T45[Ve24]	1.549	0.014	1.551	0.013
T46[Ve24]	1.551	0.017	1.552	0.013
T47[Ve15]	49.726	0.236	45.779	0.219
T48[Ve15]	53.819	0.260	98.094	0.540
T49[Ve15]	32.190	0.197	27.997	0.153

Table: Maple 2024, Ubuntu 24.04.1 LTS, 16GB RAM and 12th Gen Intel(R) Core(TM) i5-1235U processor

- ① IPD = IntegerPointDecomposition
- ② NIP = NumberOfIntegerPoints

Using the SMT-LIB data-base

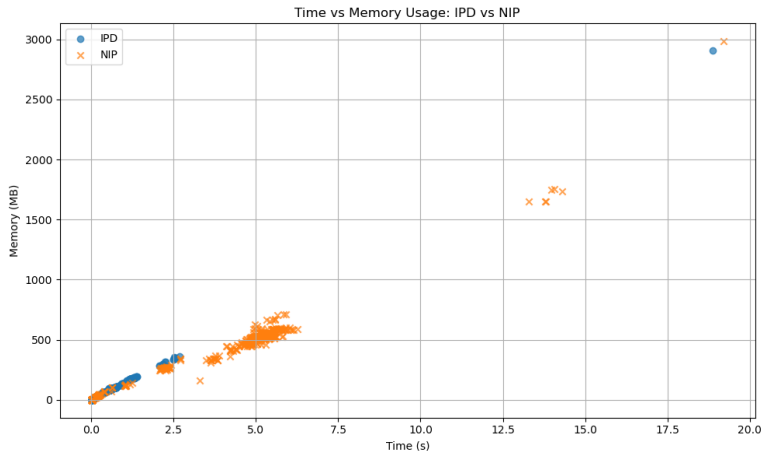


Figure: Time vs Memory for the SMT-LIA examples.

We have tested all the examples (about 400) from SMT-LIA that are Presburger formulas.

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Summary and notes

We have discussed algebraic issues for the problem of quantifier elimination in Presburger arithmetic. Our findings are:

- 1 Cooper's algorithm [7] is equivalent to Williams' projection [31].
- 2 The Omega test [26] is a substantial optimization of the latter two projections.
- 3 The algorithm IntegerPointDecomposition [13], which is based on the Omega test, seems experimentally superior to algorithms based on parametric versions of Barvinok's algorithm.

Work in progress

- 1 We shall continue investigating **heuristics to bypass double negation** when dealing with universal quantifiers.
- 2 In the presence of free variables, QE tend to split computations more than necessary and we are developing algorithms dealing with this **expression swell** issue.
- 3 We are extending our implementation of Presburger arithmetic to support certain classes of **non-linear expressions** that are of practical interest in compiler theory [6].

A festive birthday scene featuring a three-tiered cake with white frosting and lit candles. The background is decorated with colorful balloons (red, blue, pink) and warm, glowing bokeh lights. Confetti is scattered around the cake.

Joyeux
anniversaire!

Que cette journée soit remplie
de tout ce qui te rend heureux

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