Learning Minimal Abstractions

POPL - Austin, TX

January 26, 2011

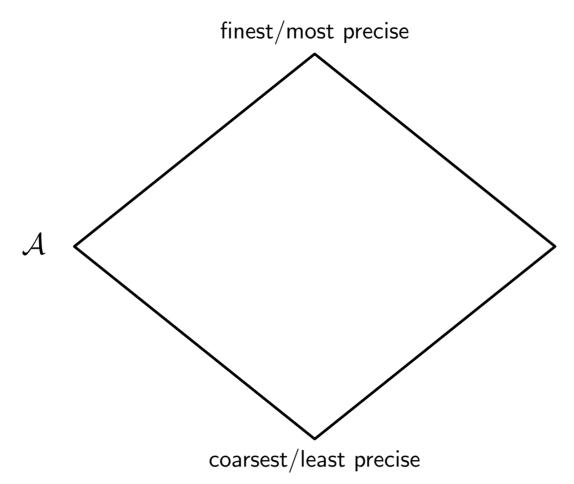
UC Berkeley Tel-Aviv Univ.

Percy Liang Omer Tripp

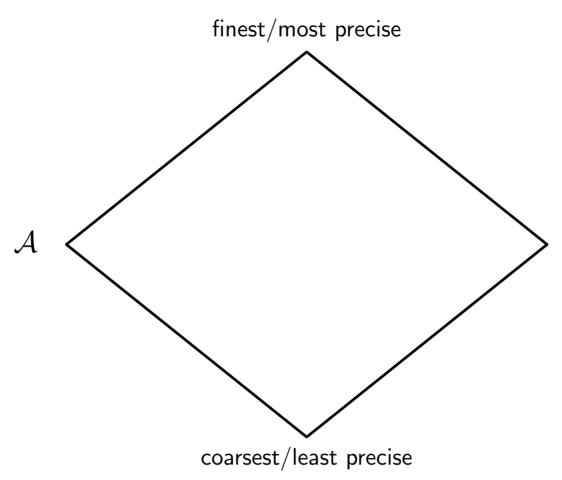
Mayur Naik Intel Labs Berkeley

Given a family of abstractions ${\cal A}$

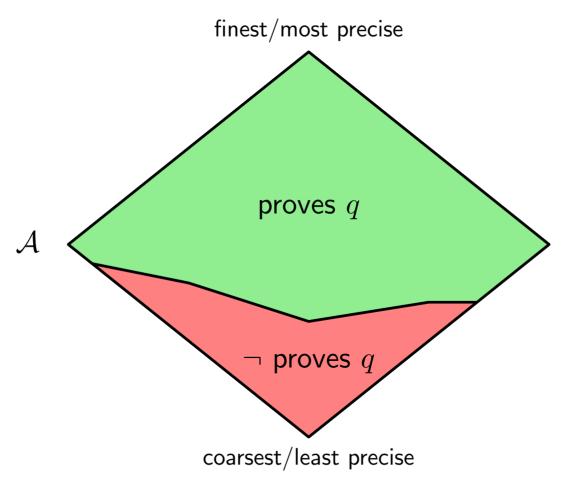
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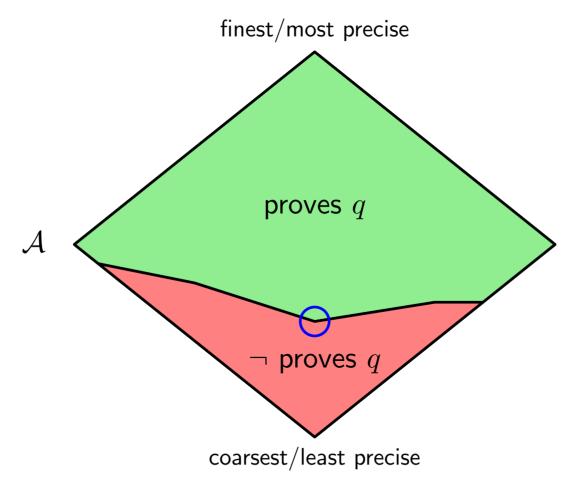
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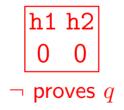


What is the coarsest abstraction $a \in A$ that proves the query q?

Query: is there a data race between x.f = ... and y.f = ...? no

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```
getnew() { // Thread 1 // Thread 2 h1: z1 = new C x = getnew() y = getnew() h2: z2 = new C x.f = ... y.f = ... return z2 }
```

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\begin{bmatrix} h1 & h2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \neg proves q
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Abstraction refinement [Guyer & Lin 2003]

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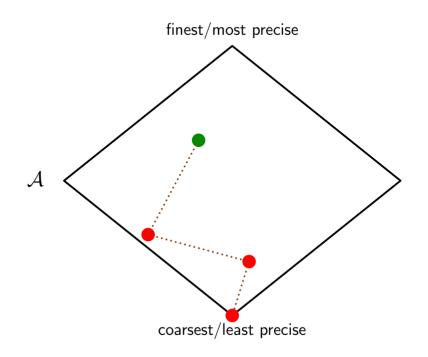
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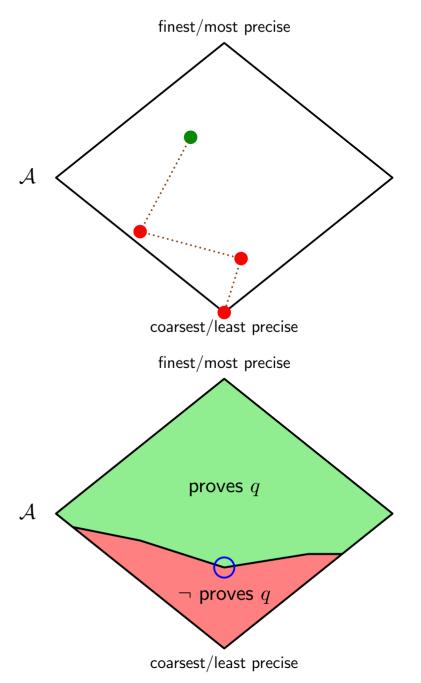
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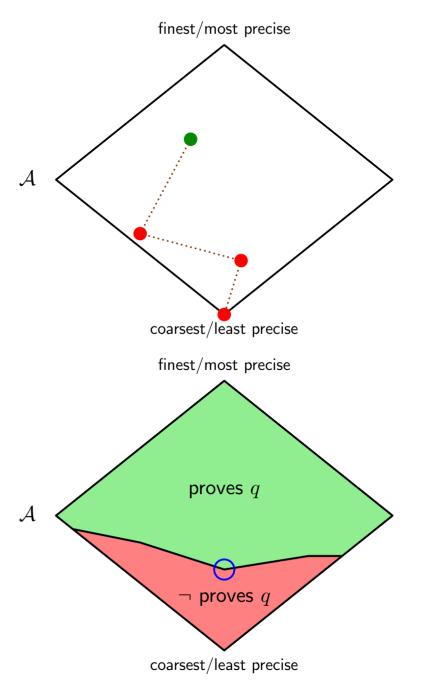
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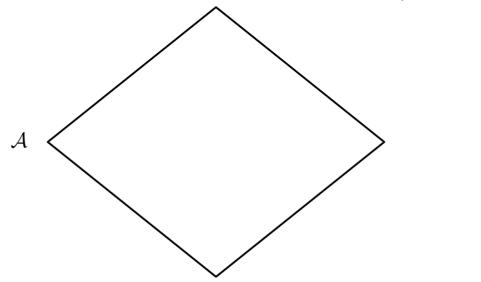
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Sufficient/necessary conditions: what aspects of program to model?



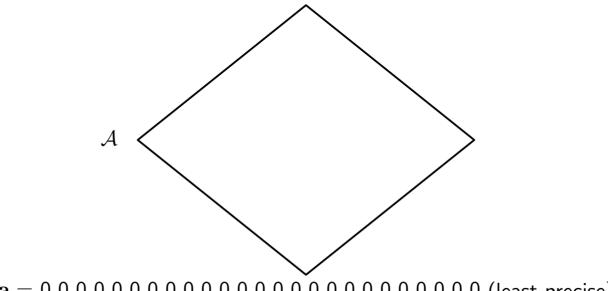
Binary representation

Abstraction $a \in A$ is a binary vector (subset of components):



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Examples:

k-limited [Milanova et al. 2002]: treat site context-sensitively?

Predicate abstraction [Ball et al. 2001]: include predicate?

Shape analysis [Sagiv et al. 2002]: treat as abstraction predicate?

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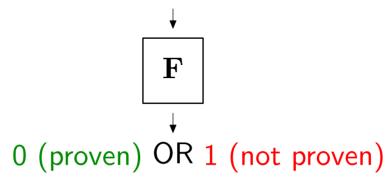
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0 (proven) OR 1 (not proven)

Goal: find a minimal abstraction a (not necessarily unique):

- (i) $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{a}) = 0$ (proves the query)
- (ii) For $\mathbf{a}' \prec \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{a}') = 1$ (can't coarsen locally)

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Approach: machine learning algorithms that exploit randomization

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Only a small fraction of components of a need to be refined

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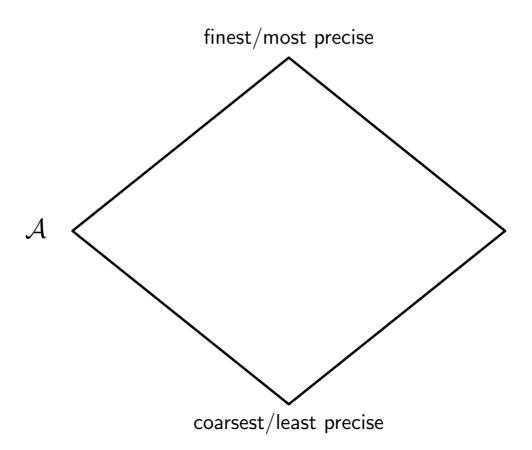
```
a = 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0
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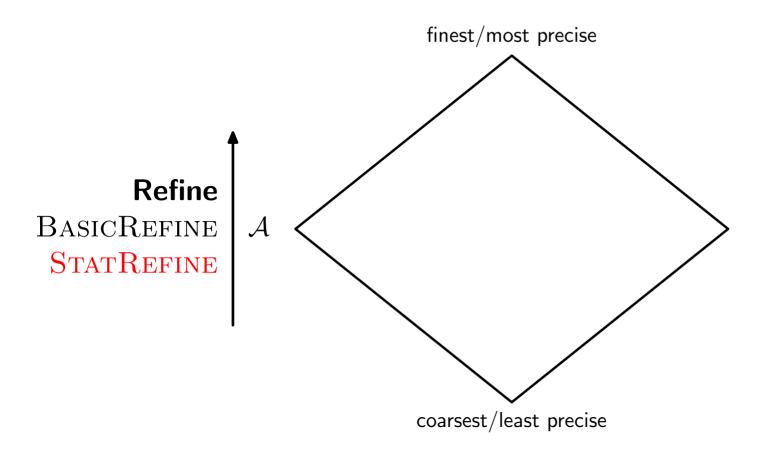
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Empirical: for k-limited race detection, only 0.4\%-2.3\% components need to be 1! (effectively "0.004-CFA" – "0.023-CFA")
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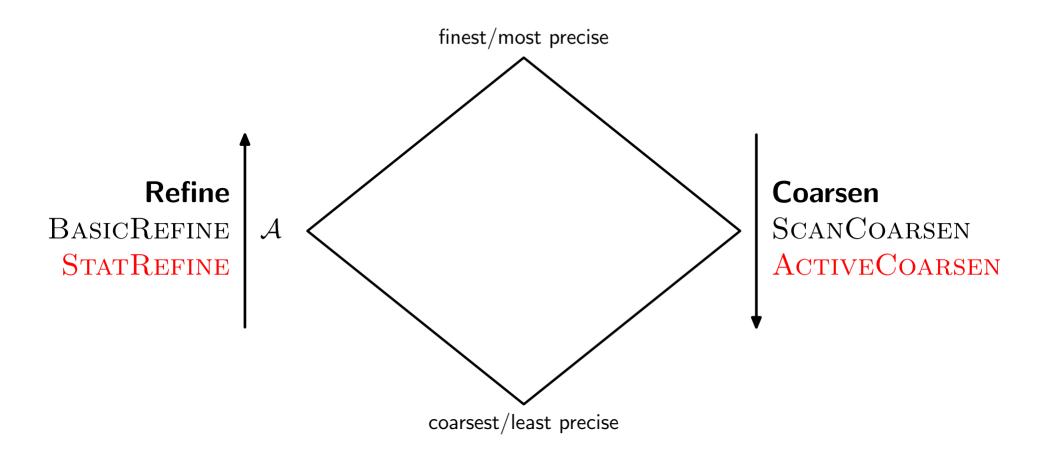
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Solves the motivating problem of proving a new query cheaply

Does not solve the minimal abstraction problem (it refines too much)

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Component whose removal causes F(a) = 1 must exist in min. abstraction

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Problem: takes O(# components) time (can be $> 10,000 \Rightarrow > 30 \text{ days}$)

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Loop:

Gather n training examples $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{a}))$ where $p(\mathbf{a}_j = 1) = \alpha$ Add component j with largest # of \mathbf{a} with $\mathbf{a}_j = 1$ and $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{a}) = 0$

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Significance: s, d are small,

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Proof sketch: large deviation bounds + optimization over α

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Summary of algorithms

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BASICREFINE	no	yes	O(1)
SCANCOARSEN	yes	yes	$O(\mathbb{J})$
STATREFINE	high prob.	high prob.	$O(sd^2 \log \mathbb{J})$
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Extensions:

- ullet Adapatively refinement probability lpha
- Sharing computation across multiple queries

Experimental setup

Application: static race detector of [Naik et al. 2006]

Pointer analysis using k-object-sensitivity or k-CFA with heap cloning

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Number of races:

	hedc	weblech	lusearch
0-cfa	21,335	27,941	37,632
1-CFA	17,837	8,208	31,866
diff. (queries)	3,498	19,733	5,766
1 -OBJ	17,137	8,063	31,428
2 -obj	16,124	5,523	20,929
diff. (queries)	1,013	2,540	10,499

Experimental results (all queries)

Setting: find **one** abstraction to prove **all** queries
How large is abstraction produced by
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k-CFA:

	total # components	BASICREFINE	ACTIVECOARSEN (minimal)
hedc	8,775	7,270 (83%)	90 (1.0%)
weblech	14,989	12,737 (85%)	157 (1.0%)
lusearch	16,801	14,864 (88%)	250 (1.5%)

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k-object-sensitivity:

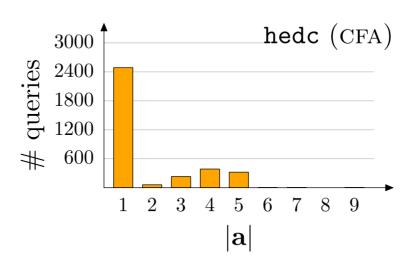
	total # components	BASICREFINE	ACTIVECOARSEN (minimal)
hedc	1,580	906 (57%)	37 (2.3%)
weblech	2,584	1,768 (68%)	48 (1.9%)
lusearch	2,873	2,085 (73%)	56 (1.9%)

Experimental results (breakdown by query)

Setting: find **one** abstraction to prove **one** query How large are the per-query minimal abstractions?

Experimental results (breakdown by query)

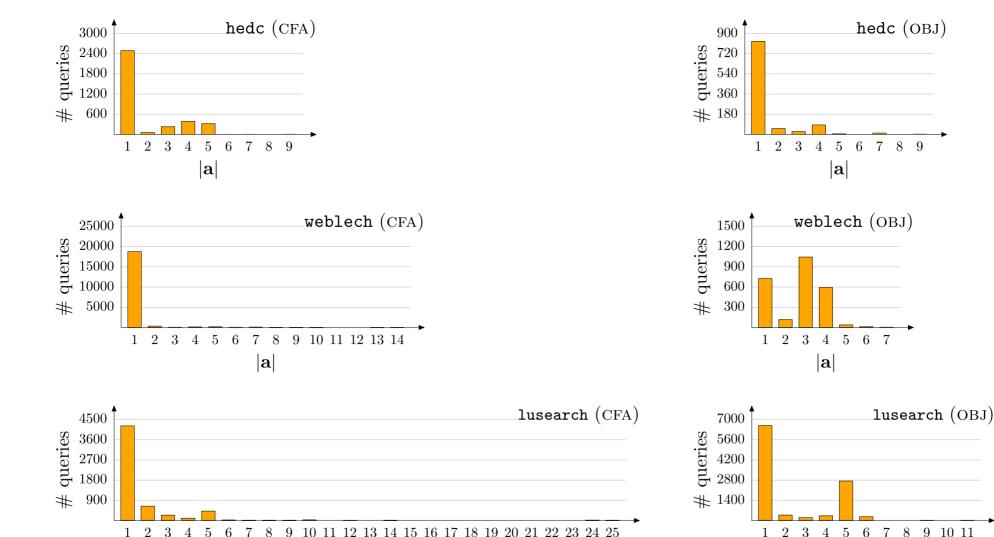
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 $|\mathbf{a}|$



 $|\mathbf{a}|$

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- Scientific question: what's the minimal abstraction to prove a query?
- Sparsity: very few components are needed
 - Theoretical result: leads to efficient machine learning algorithms
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- Future work: tackle motivating problem with information gathered from minimal abstractions