

# Proving Termination of Imperative Programs using Max-SMT

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# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 SMT/Max-SMT solving
- 3 Invariant generation
- 4 Termination analysis
- 5 Further work

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# Motivation

- Prove termination of imperative programs automatically.
- Find ranking functions.
- Find supporting invariants.
- **How to guide the search!**

# Simple example

```
void simpleT(int x, int y) {  
  
    while (y>0) {  
  
        while (x>0) {  
            x=x-y;  
            y=y+1;  
        }  
        y=y-1;  
    }  
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void simpleT(int x, int y) {  
    while (y>0) { Ranking function: y  
        // Inv: y>0  
        while (x>0) { Ranking function: x  
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- Consider integer linear programs.
- Use the constraint-based method [CSS2003, BMS2005].
  - Use an SMT solver to solve the constraints.
- Use Max-SMT to guide the search
  - Invariant conditions are *hard*
  - Termination conditions are *soft*

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# SMT solving

**Input:** Given a boolean formula  $\varphi$  over some theory  $T$ .

**Question:** Is there any interpretation that satisfies the formula?

Example:  $T =$  linear integer/real arithmetic.

$$(x < 0 \vee x \leq y \vee y < z) \wedge (x \geq 0) \wedge (x > y \vee y < z)$$

$$\{x = 1, y = 0, z = 2\}$$

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There exist very efficient solvers: yices, z3, Barcelogic, ...

Can handle large formulas with a complex boolean structure.

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**Input:** Given a boolean formula  $\varphi$  over some theory  $T$ .

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Example:  $T =$  non-linear (polynomial) integer/real arithmetic.

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Non-linear arithmetic decidability:

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Incomplete solvers focused on either **satisfiability** or unsatisfiability.

Need to handle again large formulas with complex boolean structure.

Barcelogic SMT-solver works very well finding solutions

# Optimization problems

*(Weighted) Max-SMT problem*

**Input:** Given an SMT formula  $\varphi = C_1 \wedge \dots \wedge C_m$  in CNF, where some of the clauses are *hard* and the others *soft* with a weight.

**Output:** An assignment for the hard clauses that minimizes the sum of the weights of the falsified soft clauses.

$$(x^2 + y^2 > 2 \vee x \cdot z \leq y \vee y \cdot z < z^2) \wedge (x > y \vee 0 < z \vee w(5)) \wedge \dots$$

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# Invariants

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We are focused on inductive invariants.

# Constraint-based invariant generation [CSS2003]

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- Model the program as a ***transition system***

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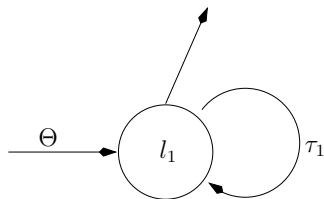
- Assume input programs consist of *linear expressions*
- Model the program as a *transition system*

Simple example:

```

int main()
{
    int x;
    int y=-x;
11: while (x>=0) {
        x--;
        y--;
    }
}

```



$$\rho_{\Theta} : x' = x, \quad y' = -x$$

$$\rho_{\tau_1} : x \geq 0, \quad x' = x - 1, \quad y' = y - 1$$

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## Keys:

- Use a template for candidate invariants.

$$c_1x_1 + \dots + c_nx_n + d \leq 0$$

- Check initiation and consecution conditions obtaining an  $\exists\forall$  problem.
- Transform it using Farkas' Lemma into an  $\exists$  problem over non-linear arithmetic.



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# Ranking functions and Invariants

**Basic method:** find a single *ranking function*  $f : \text{States} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ , with  $f(S) \geq 0$  and  $f(S) > f(S')$  after every iteration.

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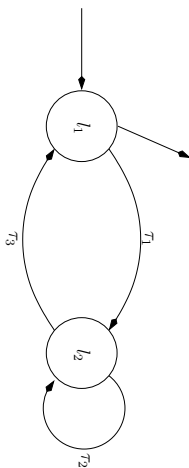
- Find supporting Invariants
- Consider a (lexicographic) combination of ranking functions

# Ranking functions and Invariants: Example

```

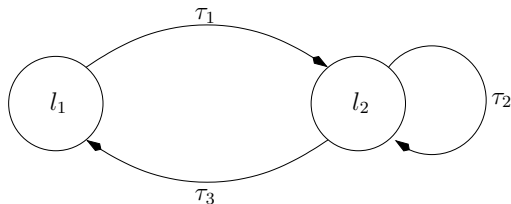
int main()
{
    int x=indet(),y=indet(),z=indet();
11: while (y>=1) {
    x--;
12: while (y<z) {
    x++; z--;
    }
    y=x+y;
}
}

```



# Ranking functions and Invariants: Example

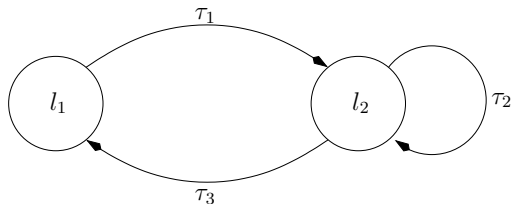
**Transition system:**



$$\begin{array}{l}
 \rho_{\tau_1} : \quad y \geq 1, \quad x' = x - 1, \quad y' = y, \quad z' = z \\
 \rho_{\tau_2} : \quad y < z, \quad x' = x + 1, \quad y' = y, \quad z' = z - 1 \\
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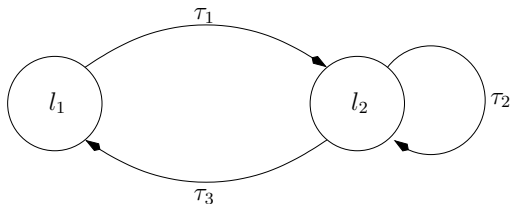
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$f(x, y, z) = z$  is a ranking function for  $\tau_2$



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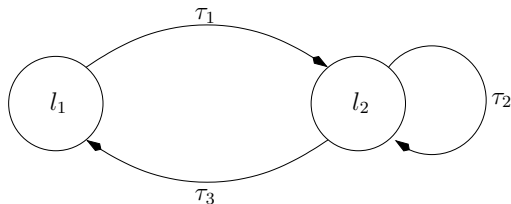


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It is necessary a supporting invariant  $y \geq 1$  at  $l_2$ .

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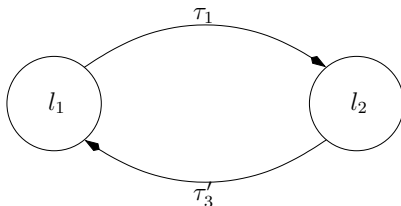


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We can discard all executions that pass through  $\tau_2$ .

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# Ranking functions and Invariants

In order to discard a transition  $\tau_i$  we need to find a ranking function  $f$  over the integers such that:

- 1  $\tau_i \implies f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \geq 0$  (bounded)
- 2  $\tau_i \implies f(x_1, \dots, x_n) > f(x'_1, \dots, x'_n)$  (strict-decreasing)
- 3  $\tau_j \implies f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \geq f(x'_1, \dots, x'_n)$  for all  $j$  (non-increasing)

## Ranking functions and Invariants: Combined problem

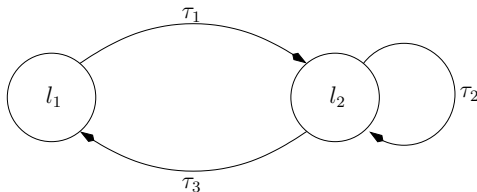
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Generation of both invariants and ranking functions should be combined in the same satisfaction problem.

Both are found at the same time [BMS2005].

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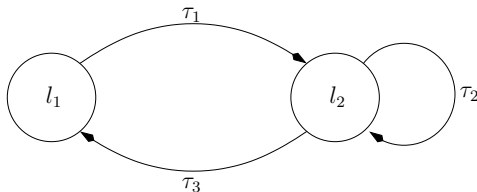
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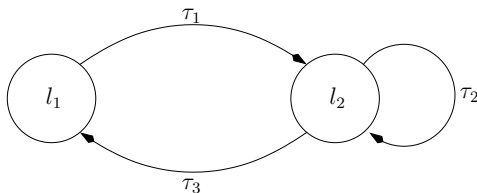
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# Ranking functions and Invariants: Example

**Transition system:**



$$\rho_{\tau_1'} : 0 \leq 0, \quad y \geq 1, \quad x' = x - 1, \quad y' = y, \quad z' = z$$

$$\rho_{\tau_2} : y \geq 1, \quad y < z, \quad x' = x + 1, \quad y' = y, \quad z' = z - 1$$

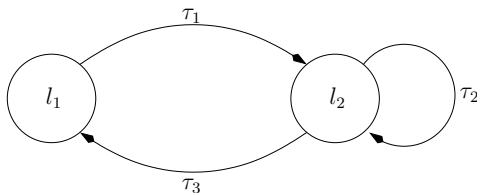
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and ranking function  $f(x, y, z) = z$ , fulfilling all properties for  $\tau_2$



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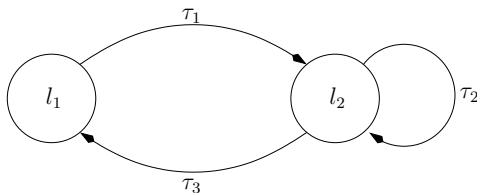


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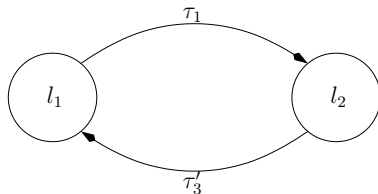


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In order to be correct we need to have **two** transition systems:

- the original system (extended with all found invariants) for invariant generation.
- the *termination transition system* which includes the transitions not yet proved to be terminating.

Similar to the *cooperation graph* in [BCF2013].

# Our approach: Example

The approach in [BMS2005] is nice but in practice some **problems** arise:

- May need several invariants before finding a ranking function.

*We should be able to generate invariants* even if there is no ranking function (how to guide the search?).

- Might be no ranking function fulfilling all properties

*We have to generate *quasi-ranking functions*.*

Similar concept as in e.g. Amir Ben-Amram's work.

May not fulfil some of the properties.

For instance, **boundedness** or **decreasingness** or even both.

# Our approach: optimization vs satisfaction

Our solution:

Consider that this is an **optimization** problem rather than a **satisfaction** problem

We want to get a ranking function but **if it is not possible** we want to get **as much properties as possible**.

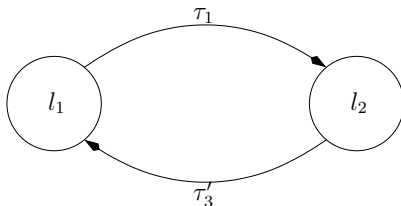
Use different weights to express which properties we prefer

Encode the problem using **Max-SMT**,

We use again **Barcelogic** to solve it.

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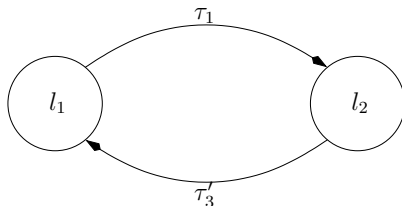
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There is no ranking function that fulfils all conditions.



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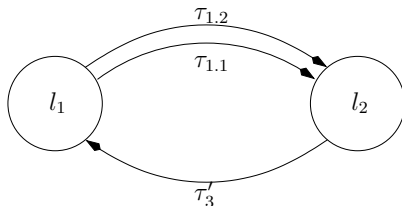
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$f(x, y, z) = x$  is *non-increasing* and *strict decreasing* for  $\tau_1$ .

However, it is not **bounded** (*soft*).

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Transition system:



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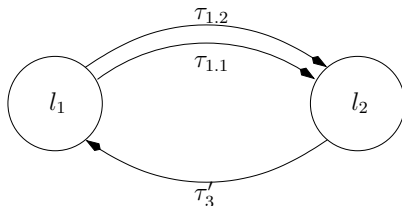
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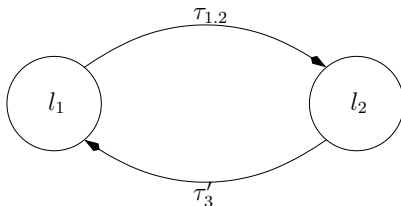
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Now  $f(x, y, z) = x$  is a ranking function for  $\tau_{1.1}$

We can remove it!

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Transition system:



$$\rho_{\tau_{1,2}} : \quad x < 0 \quad y \geq 1, \quad x' = x - 1, \quad y' = y, \quad z' = z$$

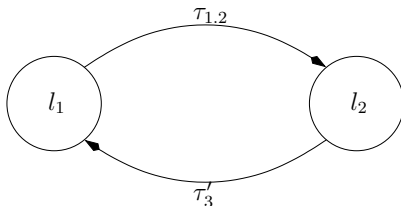
$$\rho_{\tau'_3} : \quad y \geq 1, \quad y \geq z, \quad x' = x, \quad y' = x + y, \quad z' = z$$

Now  $f(x, y, z) = x$  is a ranking function for  $\tau_{1,1}$

We can remove it!

# Our approach: Example

Transition system:



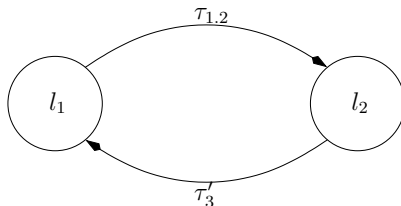
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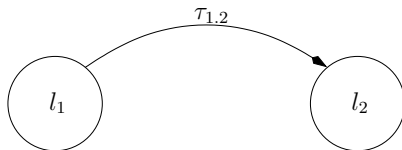
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# Our approach: Example

## Transition system:



$$\rho_{\tau_{1,2}} : \quad x < 0 \quad y \geq 1, \quad x' = x - 1, \quad y' = y, \quad z' = z$$

Finally,  $f(x, y, z) = y$  is used to discard  $\tau'_3$ .  
 But we need  $x < 0$  in  $l_2$ , which is a *Termination Implication*  
**We are DONE!**

# Contributions

- A novel optimization-based method for proving termination.
- New inferred properties: Termination Implications.
- No fixed number of supporting invariants *a priori*.
- Goal-oriented invariant generation.
- Progress in the absence of ranking functions (quasi-ranking functions).
- All these techniques have been implemented in CppInv



# Experimental evaluation:

Two sources of benchmarks:

- coming from T2 (Microsoft Cambridge). Thanks!
- code made by **undergraduate students** taken from a **programming learning environment** Jutge.org

# Experimental evaluation:

Two sources of benchmarks:

- coming from T2 (Microsoft Cambridge). Thanks!
- code made by **undergraduate students** taken from a **programming learning environment** Jutge.org In contrast to the standard academic examples the code is:
  - involved and ugly
  - unnecessary conditional statements
  - includes repeated code

# Experimental evaluation:

	#ins.	Cpplnv	T2
Set1	449	238	245
Set2	472	276	279

Table: Results with benchmarks from T2

	#ins.	Cpplnv	T2
P11655	367	324	328
P12603	149	143	140
P12828	783	707	710
P16415	98	81	81
P24674	177	171	168
P33412	603	478	371

	#ins.	Cpplnv	T2
P40685	362	324	329
P45965	854	780	793
P70756	280	243	235
P81966	3642	2663	926
P82660	196	174	177
P84219	413	325	243

Table: Results with benchmarks from Jutge.org.

# Outline

- ① Introduction
- ② SMT/Max-SMT solving
- ③ Invariant generation
- ④ Termination analysis
- ⑤ Further work

## Further work

- Apply our techniques to program synthesis
- Prove non-termination.
- Combine termination and non-termination proofs.
- Improve the non-linear arithmetic solver and the interaction with the invariant generation and termination engine.
- Consider other program properties

Thank you!



# Example of students' code

```

int first_occurrence(int x, int A[N]) {
    assume(N > 0);

    int e = 0, d = N - 1, m, pos;
    bool found = false, exit = false;
    while (e <= d and not exit) {
        m = (e+d)/2;
        if (x > A[m]) {
            if (not found) e = m+1;
            else exit = true;
        } else if (x < A[m]) {
            if (not found) d = m-1;
            else exit = true;
        } else {
            found = true; pos = m; d = m-1;
        }
    }

    if (found) {
        while (x == A[pos-1]) --pos;
        return pos; }
    return -1;
}

```

```

int first_occurrence(int x, int A[N]) {
    assume(N > 0);

    int l=0, u=N;

    while (l < u) {
        int m = (l+u)/2;
        if (A[m]<x) l=m+1;
        else u=m;
    }

    if (l>=N || A[l]!=x) l=-1;
    return l;
}

```



# Farkas' Lemma

## Farkas' Lemma:

$$(\forall \bar{x}) \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} a_{11}x_1 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n + b_1 \leq 0 \\ \vdots \qquad \qquad \qquad \vdots \qquad \qquad \qquad \vdots \leq 0 \\ a_{m1}x_1 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n + b_m \leq 0 \end{array} \right] \Rightarrow \varphi : c_1x_1 + \dots + c_nx_n + d \leq 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow$$

$$\exists \lambda_0, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m \geq 0,$$

$$c_1 = \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i a_{i1}, \dots, c_n = \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i a_{in}, d = \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i b_i \right) - \lambda_0$$