

Formalizing Path Explosion for Interprocedural Functions via Asymptotic Path Complexity

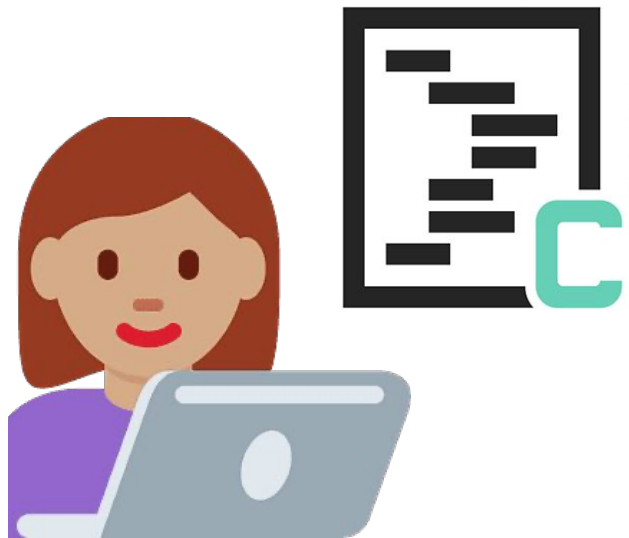
Ana Beatriz Studart, Mira Kaniyur, Yuki Yang, Sangeon Park, Lucas Bang

Computer Science Department
Harvey Mudd College
Claremont, California, USA

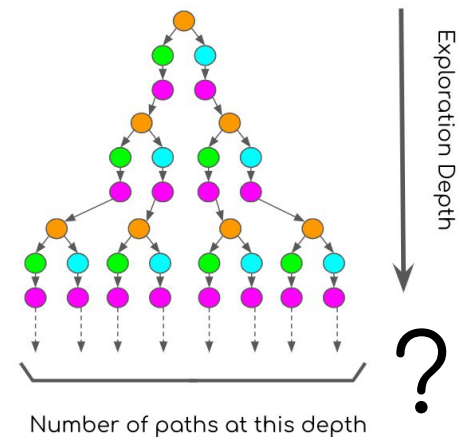
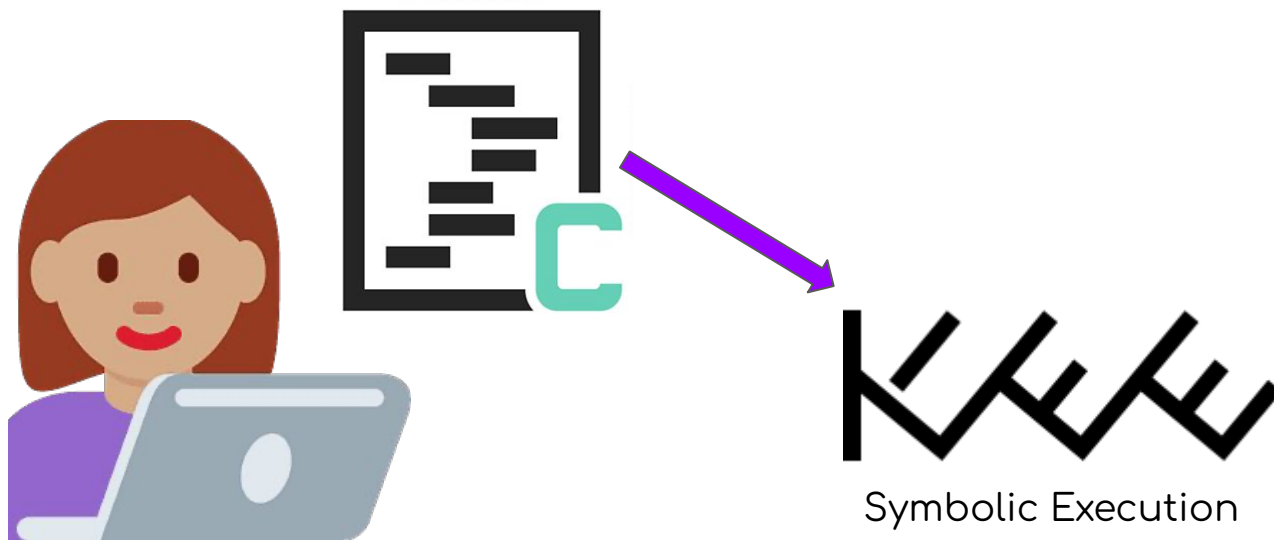


Motivation

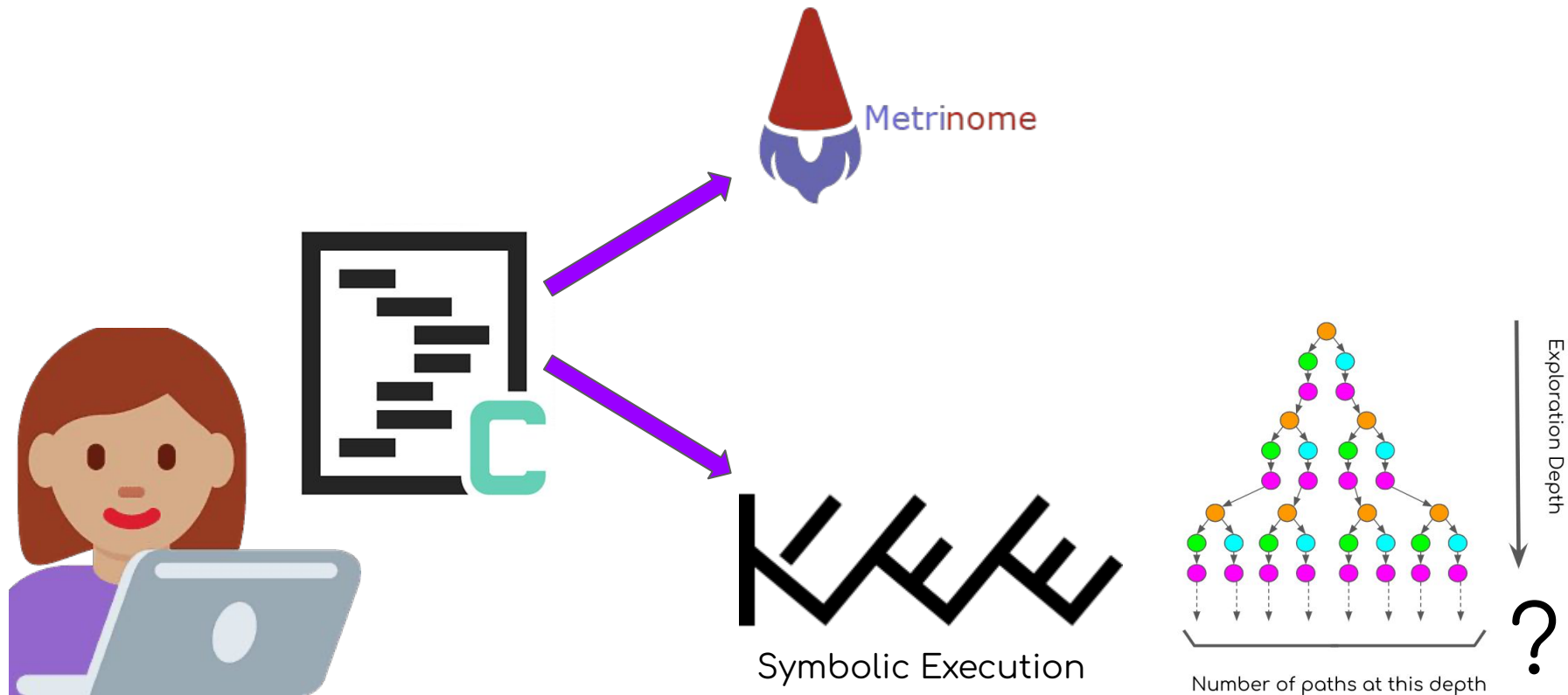
Asymptotic Path Complexity Predicts the Severity of Symbolic Execution Path Explosion



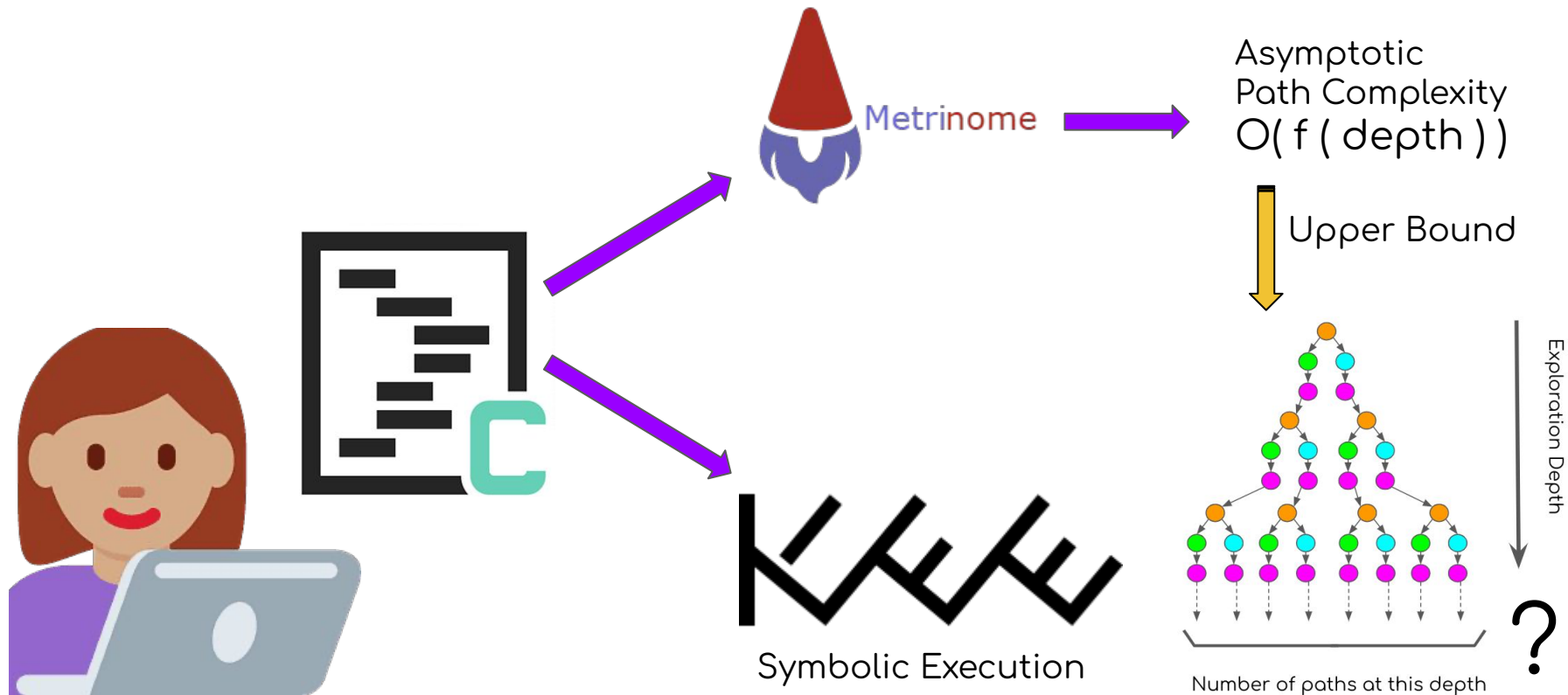
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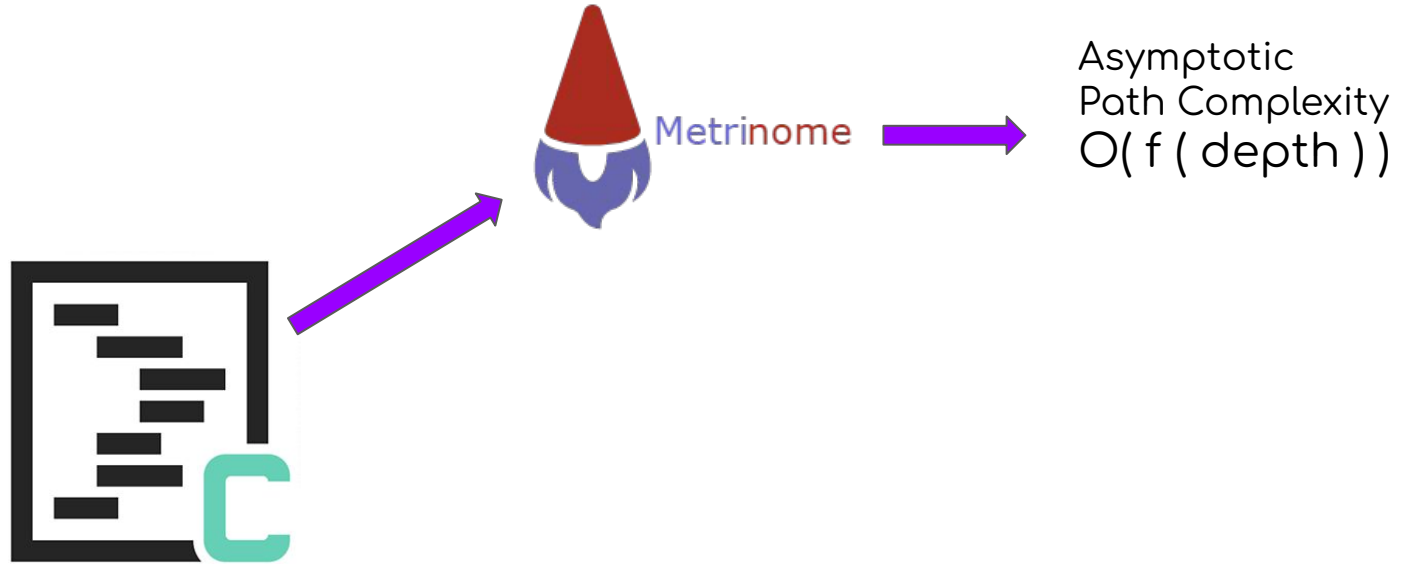
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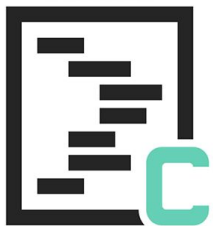
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Asymptotic Path Complexity Predicts the Severity of Symbolic Execution Path Explosion

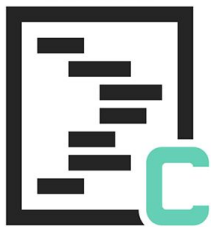


Background

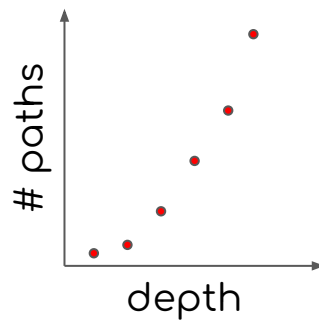


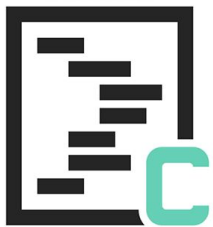
Symbolic Execution



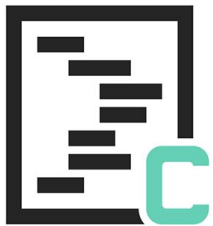
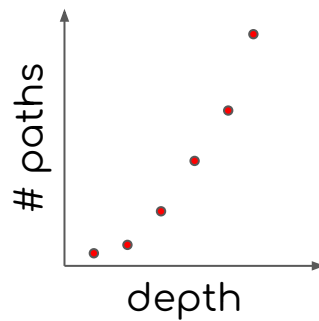


Symbolic Execution





Symbolic Execution

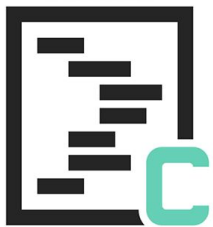


Metrinome

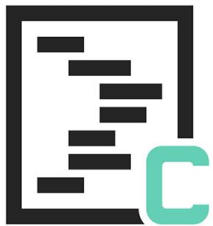
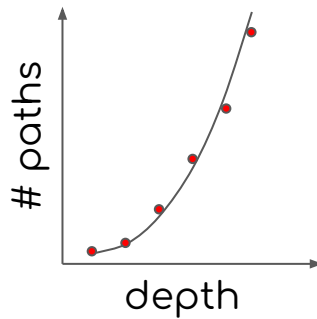


Asymptotic
Path Complexity
 $O(f(\text{depth}))$

$O(\text{depth}^2)$



Symbolic Execution

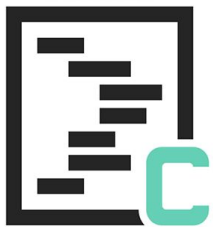


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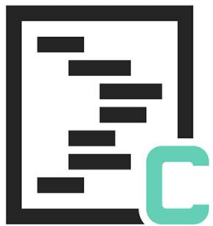
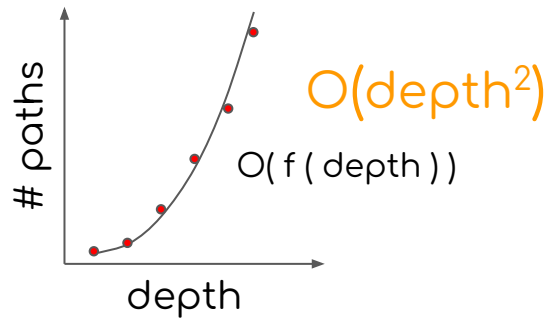


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 $O(f(\text{depth}))$

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Symbolic Execution

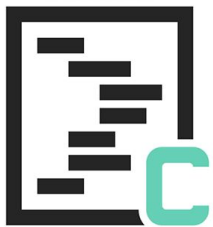


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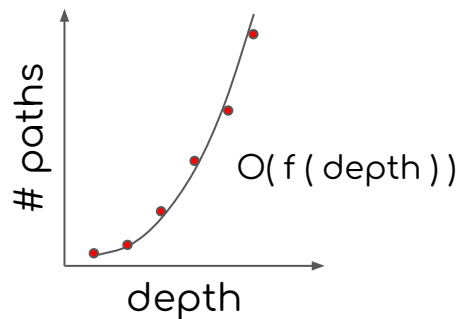


Asymptotic
Path Complexity
 $O(f(\text{depth}))$

$O(\text{depth}^2)$



Symbolic Execution



ICSE 2021
FormaliSE 2023

Metrinome



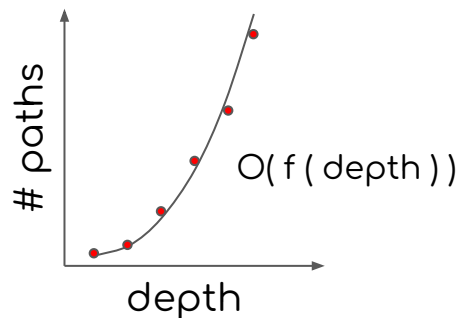
Asymptotic
Path Complexity
 $O(f(\text{depth}))$

Intraprocedural &
Self-recursive only

Combinatorics of
Context Free
Grammars



Symbolic Execution



ICSE 2021
FormalISE 2023

Metrinome



Asymptotic
Path Complexity
 $O(f(\text{depth}))$

Intraprocedural &
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ISSTA 2024

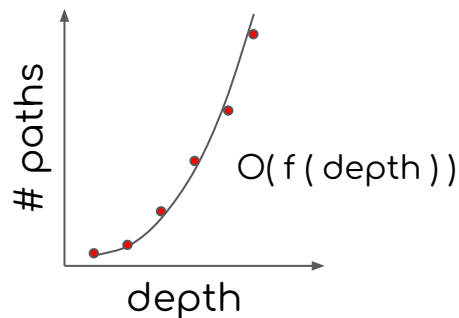
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Asymptotic
Path Complexity
 $O(f(\text{depth}))$



Symbolic Execution



ICSE 2021
FormalISE 2023

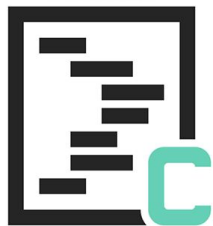
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Asymptotic
Path Complexity
 $O(f(\text{depth}))$

Intraprocedural &
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Combinatorics of
Context Free
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ISSTA 2024

Metrinome



Asymptotic
Path Complexity
 $O(f(\text{depth}))$

+ Fully interprocedural
analysis

OPTIMIZED!
Combinatorics of
Context Free
Grammars

APC-IP (Interprocedural Asymptotic Path Complexity)

APC-IP **subsumes** earlier APC work

- produces the same results on the simpler benchmarks

APC-IP **extends** earlier APC work

- handles fully interprocedural code, unlike previous work

APC-IP **outperforms** earlier APC work

- much faster when it matters

APC-IP **predicts** symbolic execution explosion rate

- upper bound on execution paths explored by KLEE

What is Path Complexity?

Path Complexity

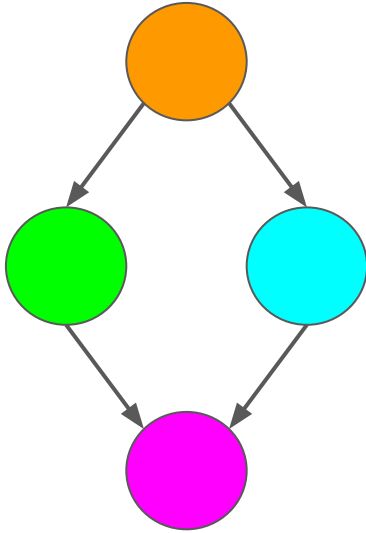
Asymptotic upper bound on the

number of paths in control flow
graph from start to exit

parameterized by execution depth.

Path Complexity Quantifies Path Explosion

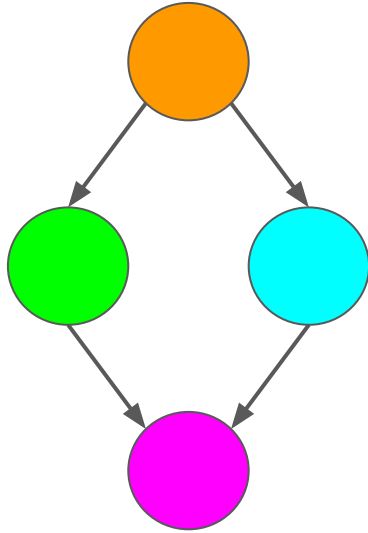
Control Flow Graph (CFG)



Path Complexity Quantifies Path Explosion

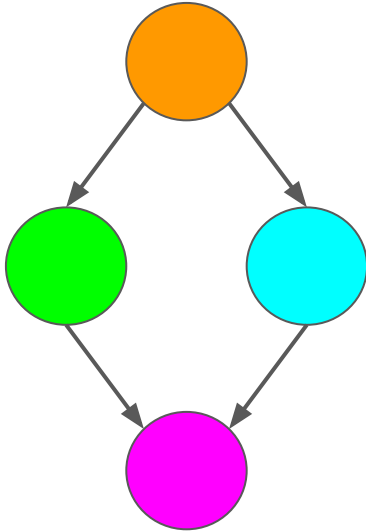
Control Flow Graph (CFG)

Symbolic Execution Tree

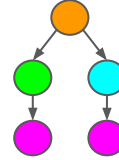


Path Complexity Quantifies Path Explosion

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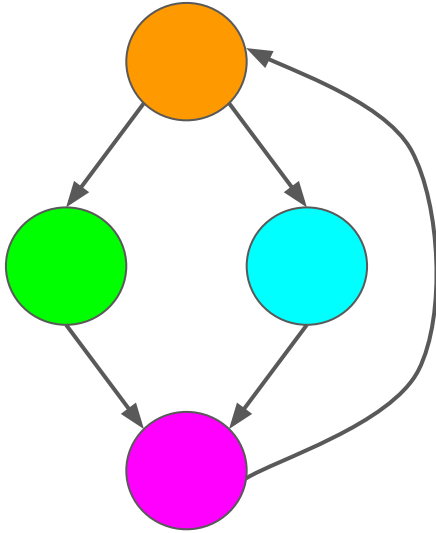


Symbolic Execution Tree

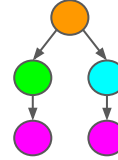


Path Complexity Quantifies Path Explosion

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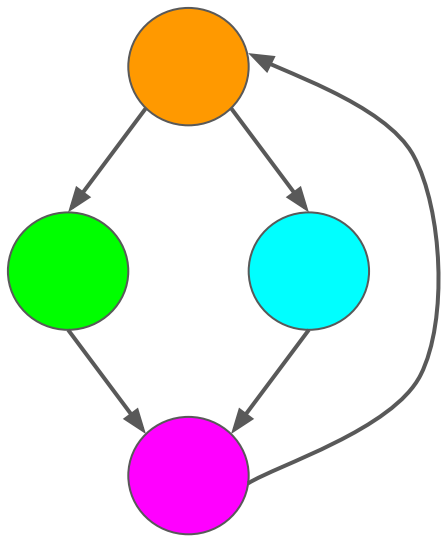


Symbolic Execution Tree

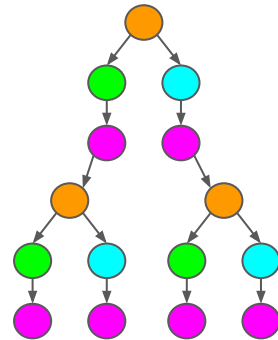


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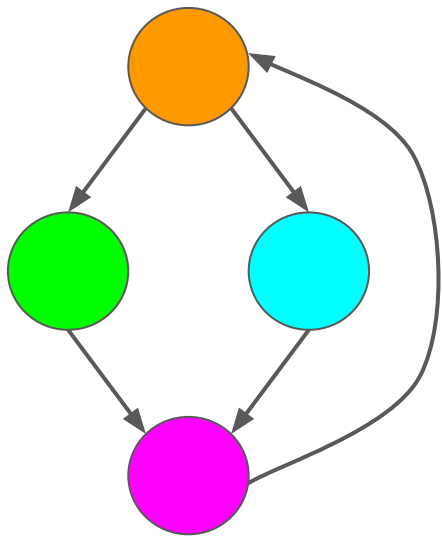


Symbolic Execution Tree

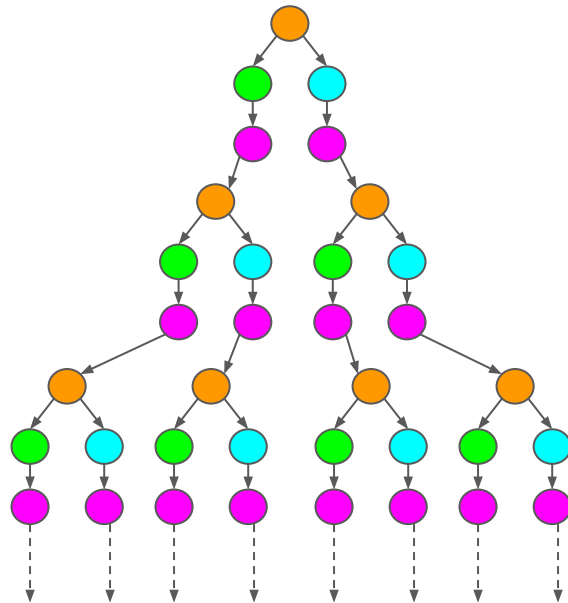


Path Complexity Quantifies Path Explosion

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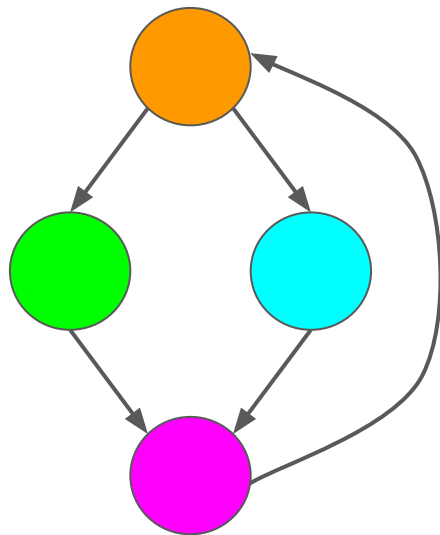


Symbolic Execution Tree

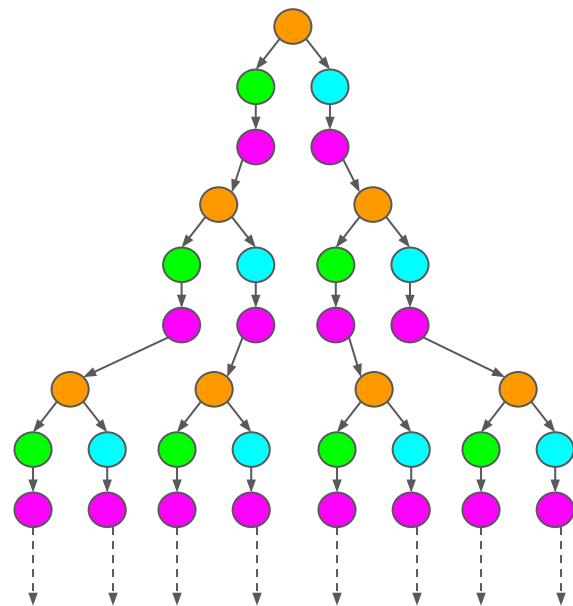


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Control Flow Graph (CFG)



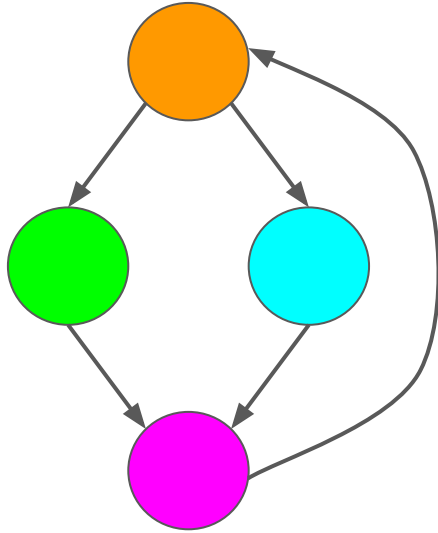
Symbolic Execution Tree



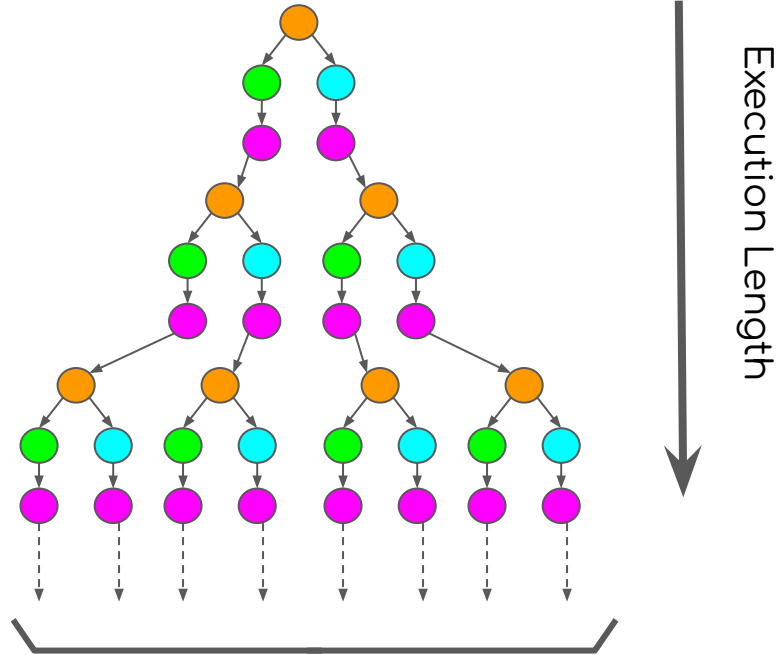
Execution Length

Path Complexity Quantifies Path Explosion

Control Flow Graph (CFG)



Symbolic Execution Tree



Number of paths at this length
 $2^{(\text{length} + 1)/3} = O(1.26^{\text{length}})$

APC with Recursive Functions

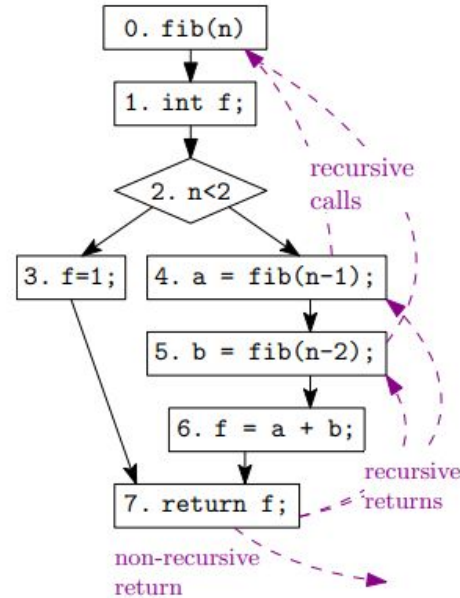
APC-R
(FormaliSE 2023)

APC-R: Code \rightarrow Control Flow Graph \rightarrow Grammar

```
0. int fib(int n){  
1.     int f;  
2.     if (n < 2)  
3.         f = 1;  
4.     else {int a = fib(n - 1);  
5.           int b = fib(n - 2);  
6.           f = a + b; }  
7.     return f; }
```

APC-R: Code \rightarrow Control Flow Graph \rightarrow Grammar

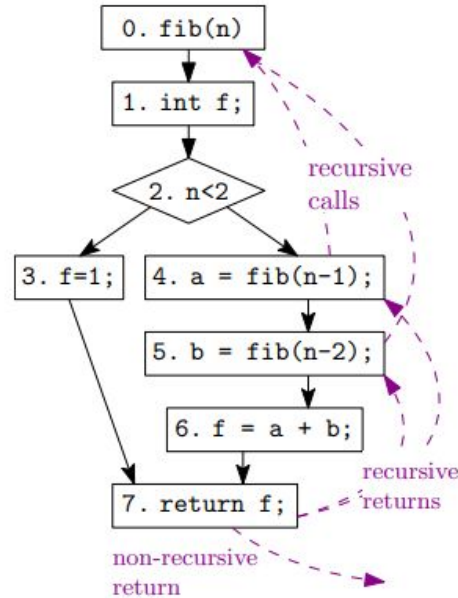
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Terminals are node numbers
0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

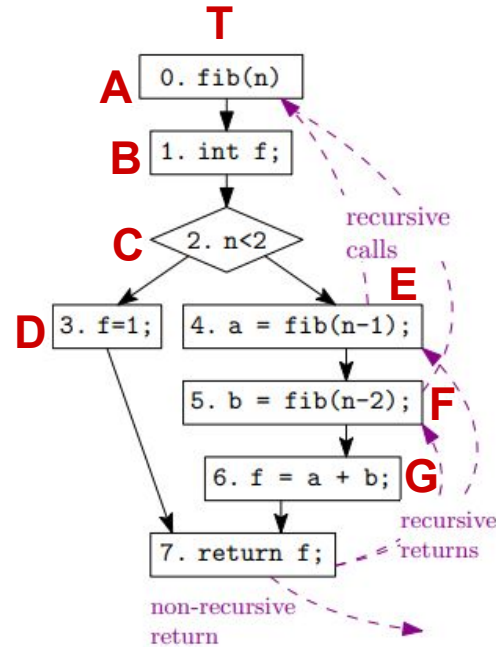


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Variables represent “all possible
paths following from that node”
T, A, B, C, D, E, F, G

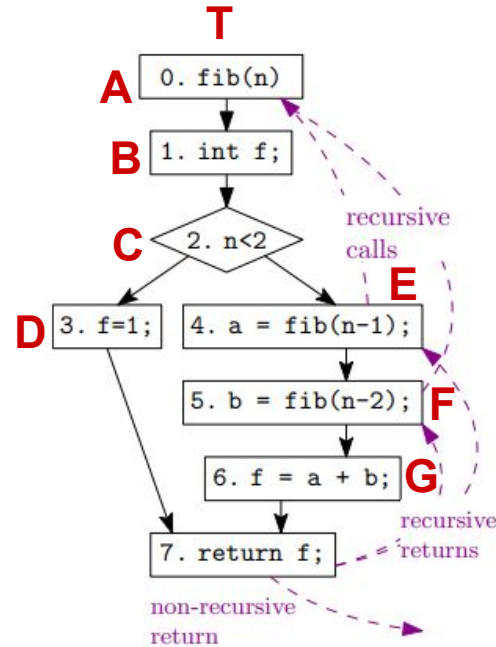


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$T \rightarrow 0A$

$A \rightarrow 1B$

$B \rightarrow 2C$

$C \rightarrow 3D \mid 4E$

$D \rightarrow 7$

$E \rightarrow T5F$

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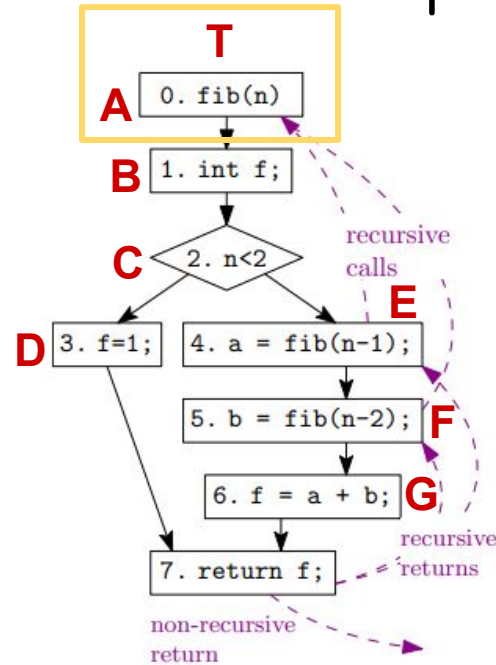
$G \rightarrow 7$

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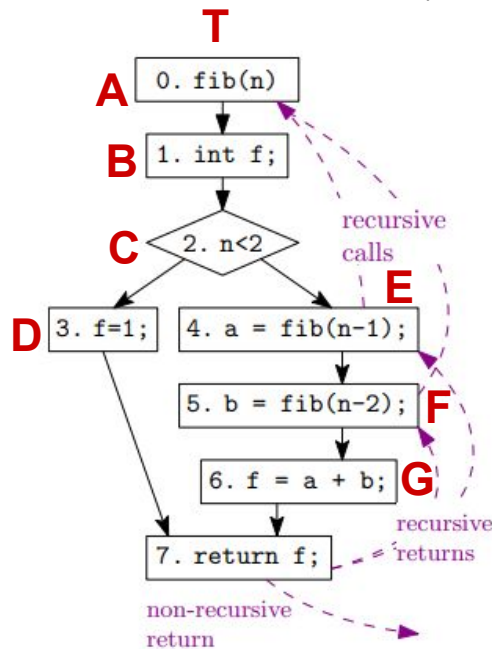
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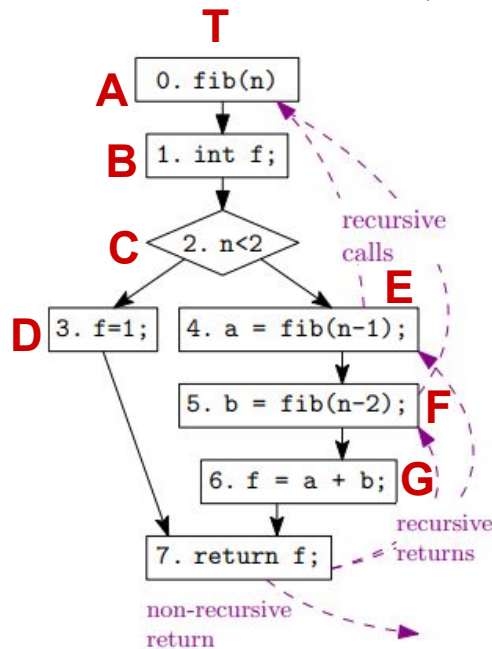
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Strings From Grammar \equiv Code Executions

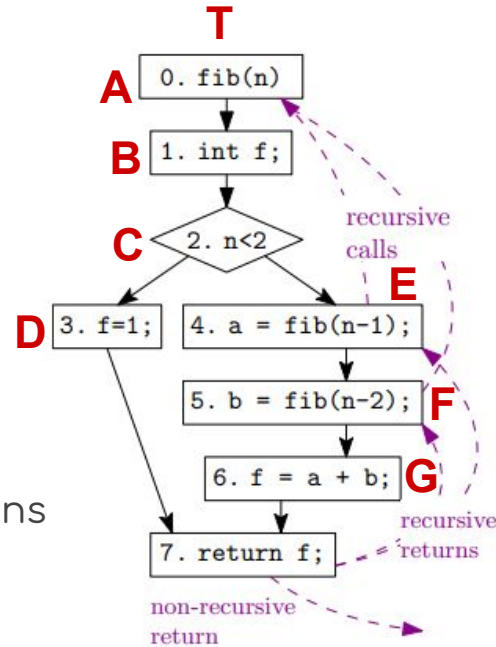
01237

01240123750123767

01240124012375012376750123767

01240123750124012375012376767

...



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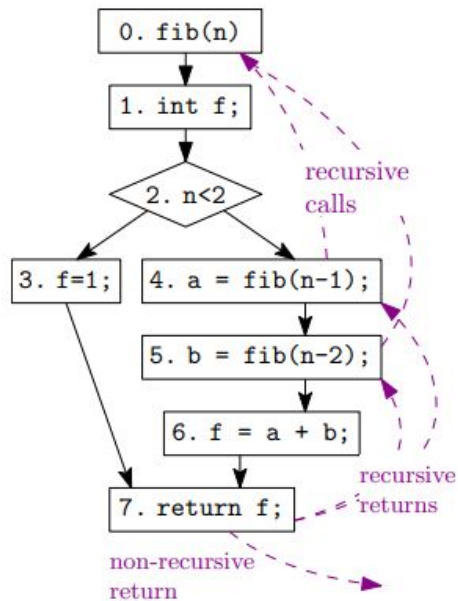
$D \rightarrow 7$

$E \rightarrow T5F$

$F \rightarrow T6G$

$G \rightarrow 7$

Path Complexity from Grammar



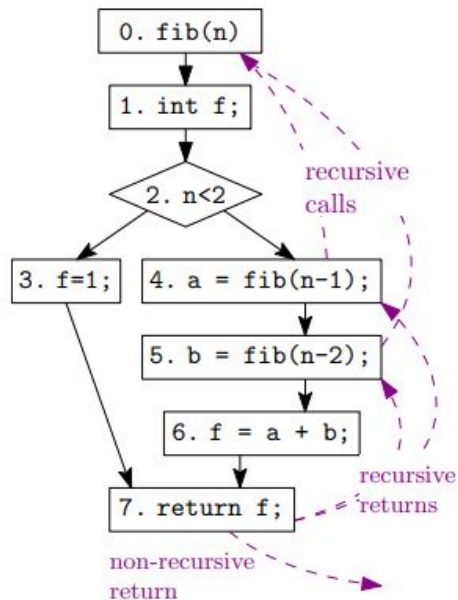
Control Flow Graph

$T \rightarrow \emptyset A$
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 $D \rightarrow 7$
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Grammar

System of
Equations

Path Complexity from Grammar



Control Flow Graph

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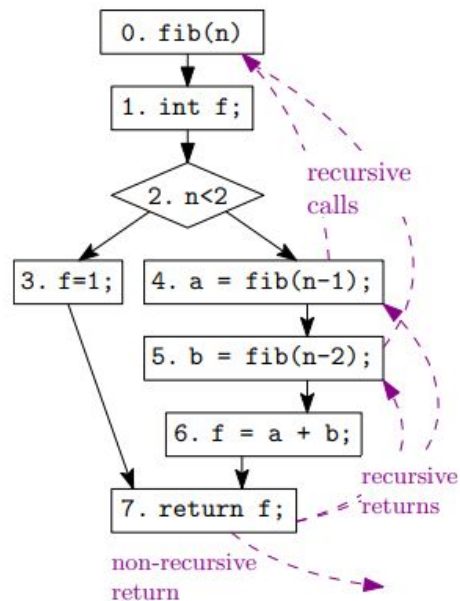
Grammar

Chomsky-
Schützenberger
theorem



System of
Equations

Path Complexity from Grammar



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Grammar

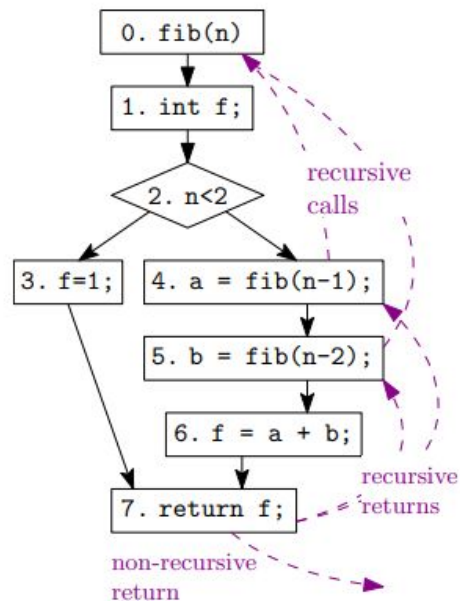
Chomsky-Schützenberger theorem



\rightarrow	\mapsto	$=$
\vdash	\mapsto	\neq
$ $	\mapsto	$+$

System of Equations

Path Complexity from Grammar



Control Flow Graph

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Grammar

Chomsky-
Schützenberger
theorem



\rightarrow \mapsto $=$
 \vdash \mapsto z
 $|$ \mapsto $+$

$T = Az$
 $A = Bz$
 $B = Cz$
 $C = Dz + Ez$
 $D = z$
 $E = TFz$
 $F = TGz$
 $G = z$

System of
Equations

Path Complexity from Grammar

$$T = Az$$

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Path Complexity from Grammar

Eliminate Variables to Isolate T

$$T = Az$$

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$$B = Cz$$

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$$G = z$$

$$z^5 + z^7T^2 - T = 0$$

Path Complexity from Grammar

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Eliminate Variables to Isolate T

$$z^5 + z^7 T^2 - T = 0$$

Compute Discriminant

$$1 - 4z^{12} = 0$$

$$\text{Disc}(p) = \frac{(-1)^{n(n-1)/2}}{a_n} \text{Res}\left(p, \frac{d}{dx}p\right)$$

$$\text{Res}(p, q) = \begin{vmatrix} a_0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & b_0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ a_1 & a_0 & \cdots & 0 & b_1 & b_0 & \cdots & 0 \\ a_2 & a_1 & \ddots & 0 & b_2 & b_1 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & a_0 & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & b_0 \\ a_d & a_{d-1} & \cdots & \vdots & b_e & b_{e-1} & \cdots & \vdots \\ 0 & a_d & \ddots & \vdots & 0 & b_e & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & a_{d-1} & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & b_{e-1} \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & a_d & 0 & 0 & \cdots & b_e \end{vmatrix}$$

Path Complexity from Grammar

$$T = Az$$

$$A = Bz$$

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$$C = Dz + Ez$$

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$$E = TFz$$

$$F = TGz$$

$$G = z$$

Eliminate Variables to Isolate T

$$z^5 + z^7 T^2 - T = 0$$

Compute Discriminant

$$1 - 4z^{12} = 0$$

Compute Roots

$$4^{1/12} e^{k \pi i / 6} \text{ for } k = 1 \dots 12$$

$$\text{Disc}(p) = \frac{(-1)^{n(n-1)/2}}{a_n} \text{Res} \left(p, \frac{d}{dx} p \right)$$

$$\text{Res}(p, q) = \begin{vmatrix} a_0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & b_0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ a_1 & a_0 & \cdots & 0 & b_1 & b_0 & \cdots & 0 \\ a_2 & a_1 & \ddots & 0 & b_2 & b_1 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & a_0 & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & b_0 \\ a_d & a_{d-1} & \cdots & \vdots & b_e & b_{e-1} & \cdots & \vdots \\ 0 & a_d & \ddots & \vdots & 0 & b_e & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & a_{d-1} & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & b_{e-1} \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & a_d & 0 & 0 & \cdots & b_e \end{vmatrix}$$

Path Complexity from Grammar

$T = Az$
 $A = Bz$
 $B = Cz$
 $C = Dz + Ez$
 $D = z$
 $E = TFz$
 $F = TGz$
 $G = z$

Eliminate Variables to Isolate T

$$z^5 + z^7 T^2 - T = 0$$

Compute Discriminant

$$1 - 4z^{12} = 0$$

Compute Roots

$$4^{1/12} e^{k \pi i / 6} \text{ for } k = 1 \dots 12$$

Asymptotic Path Complexity

$$\text{APC-R} = 4^{n/12} = 1.12^n$$

$$\text{Disc}(p) = \frac{(-1)^{n(n-1)/2}}{a_n} \text{Res} \left(p, \frac{d}{dx} p \right)$$

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$$f(n) = \sum_{i=1}^D \sum_{j=0}^{m_i-1} c_{i,j} n^j \left(\frac{1}{|r_i|} \right)^n$$

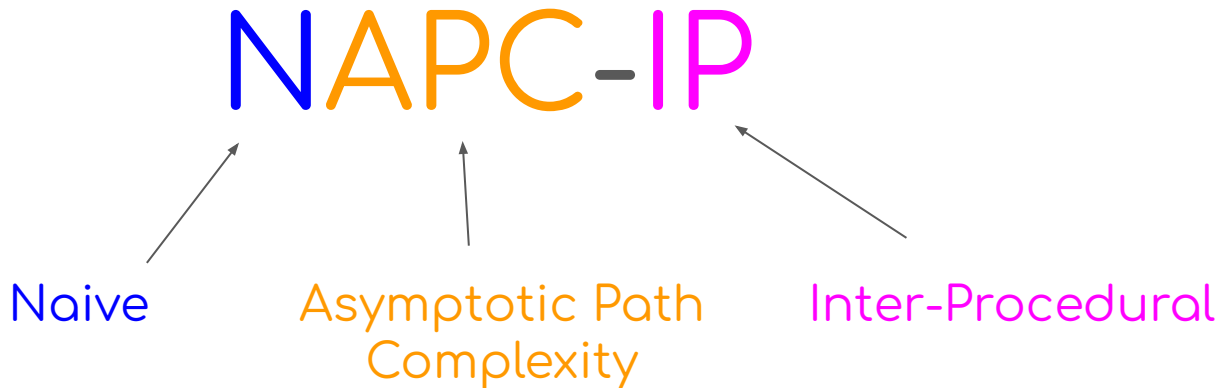
Naive Interprocedural APC

NAPC-IP

Idea! Use APC-R for Interprocedural Code!

Ideally, we could just apply the same principles from APC-R directly to interprocedural code.

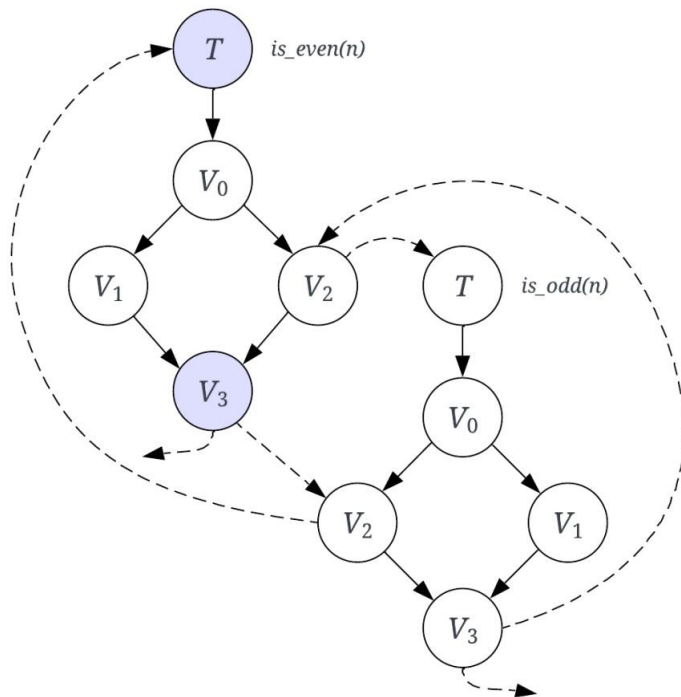
We call this approach **Naive Interprocedural Asymptotic Path Complexity**



NAPC-IP intuition

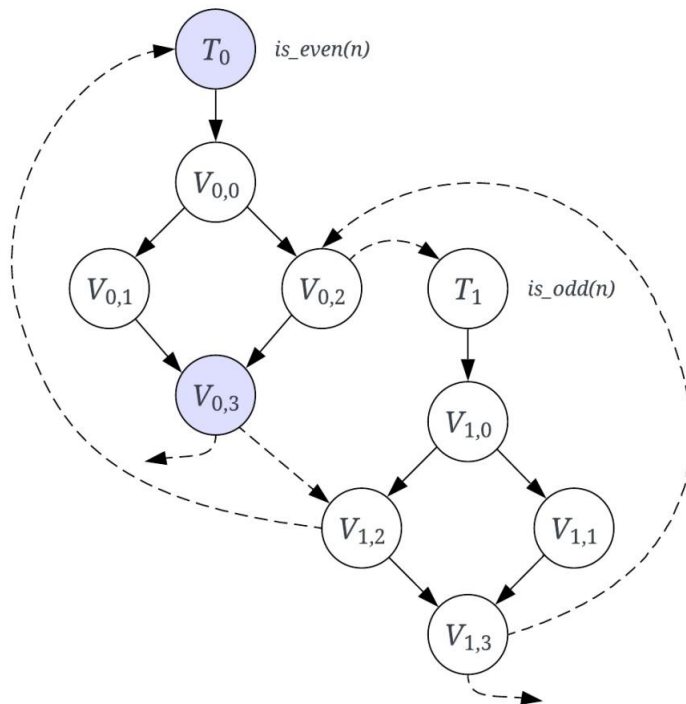
```
bool is_even(int n){  
    if (n == 0) return true;  
    else return is_odd(n - 1);  
}
```

```
bool is_odd(int n){  
    if (n == 0) return false;  
    else return is_even(n - 1);  
}
```



NAPC-IP intuition

- Need to distinguish between functions
- Add an extra subscript to each node label
- Treat interprocedural calls just like recursive calls
- Now solve for T_0



NAPC-IP intuition

- Apply APC-R algorithms

System 0 (is_even)

$$T_0 = V_{0,0}x$$

$$V_{0,0} = V_{0,1}x + V_{0,2}x$$

$$V_{0,1} = V_{0,3}x$$

$$V_{0,2} = T_1V_{0,3}x$$

$$V_{0,3} = 1$$

System 1 (is_odd)

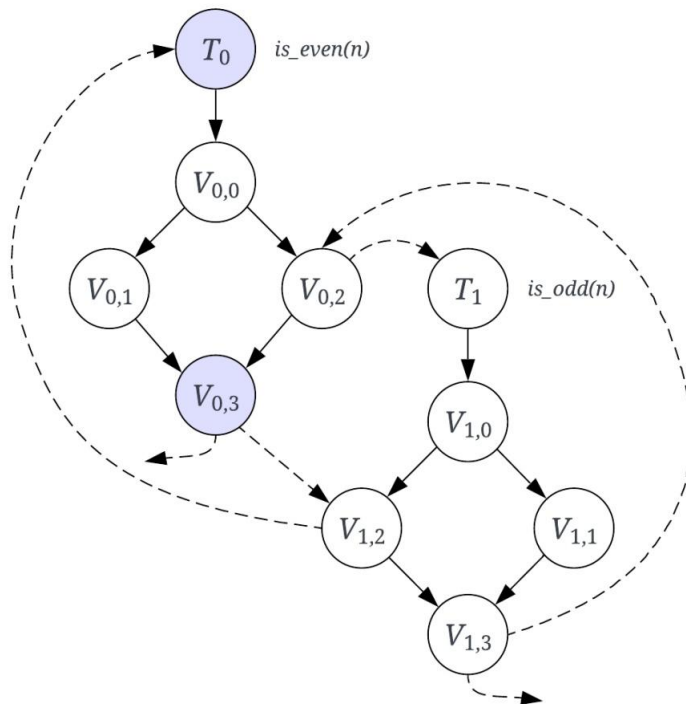
$$T_1 = V_{1,0}x$$

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NAPC-IP intuition

- Apply APC-R algorithms

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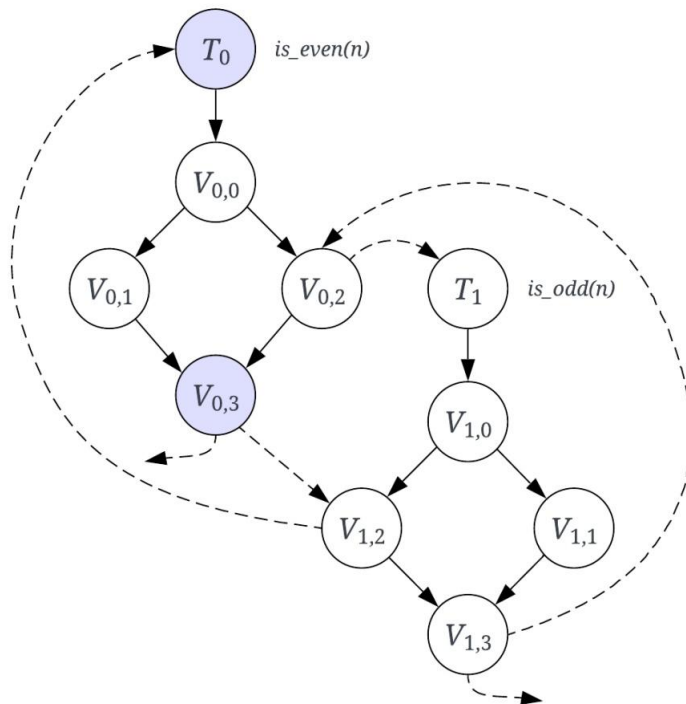
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$$V_{1,2} = T_0 V_{1,3}^x$$

$$V_{1,3} = 1$$

- Use APC-R solving techniques
APC for is_even is $O(n/3)$



NAPC-IP intuition

- Apply APC-R algorithms

System 0 (is_even)

$$T_0 = V_{0,0}x$$

$$V_{0,0} = V_{0,1}x + V_{0,2}x$$

$$V_{0,1} = V_{0,3}x$$

$$V_{0,2} = T_1 V_{0,3}x$$

$$V_{0,3} = 1$$

System 1 (is_odd)

$$T_1 = V_{1,0}x$$

$$V_{1,0} = V_{1,1}x + V_{1,2}x$$

$$V_{1,1} = V_{1,3}x$$

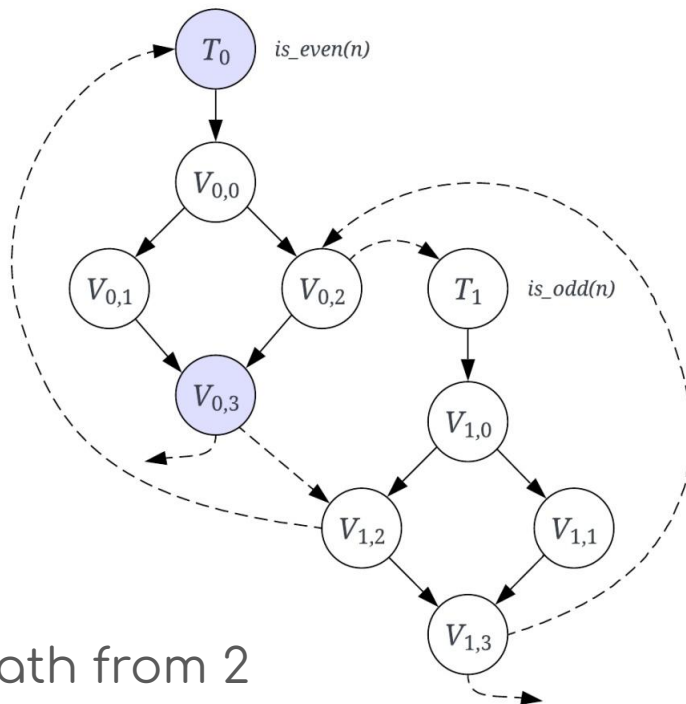
$$V_{1,2} = T_0 V_{1,3}x$$

$$V_{1,3} = 1$$

- Use APC-R solving techniques

APC for is_even is $O(n/3)$

<p>Eliminate Variables to Isolate T</p> $z^5 + z^2 T^2 - T = 0$ <p>Compute Discriminant</p> $1 - 4z^{12} = 0$ <p>Compute Roots</p> $4^{1/12} e^{k \pi i / 6} \text{ for } k = 1 \dots 12$ <p>Asymptotic Path Complexity</p> $\text{APC-R} = 4^{n/12} = 1.12^n$	$\text{Disc}(p) = \frac{(-1)^{n(n-1)/2}}{a_n} \text{Res}\left(p, \frac{d}{dx} p\right)$ $\text{Res}(p, q) = \begin{vmatrix} a_0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & b_0 & b_1 & \dots & 0 \\ a_1 & a_0 & \dots & 0 & b_1 & b_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{q-1} & a_{q-2} & \dots & a_0 & b_{q-1} & b_{q-2} & \dots & b_0 \\ 0 & a_q & \dots & 0 & b_q & b_{q+1} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & a_{q-1} & a_q & 0 & \dots & b_{q-1} \end{vmatrix}$ $f(n) = \sum_{i=1}^D \sum_{j=0}^{m_i-1} c_{i,j} n^j \left(\frac{1}{ r_i }\right)^n$
--	--



Same math from 2 minutes ago

It works! But there is a problem!

$$T = zA$$

$$A = zB$$

$$B = zC$$

$$C = zD + zE$$

$$D = z$$

$$E = zTF$$

$$F = zTG$$

$$G = z$$

Eliminate Variables to Isolate T

$$z^5 + z^7 T^2 - T = 0$$

Compute Discriminant

$$1 - 4z^{12} = 0$$

Compute Roots

$$4^{1/12} e^{k\pi i/6} \text{ for } k = 1 \dots 12$$

Asymptotic Path Complexity

$$\text{RAPC} = 4^{n/12} = 1.12^n$$

$$\text{Disc}(p) = \frac{(-1)^{n(n-1)/2}}{a_n} \text{Res} \left(p, \frac{d}{dx} p \right)$$

$$\text{Res}(p, q) = \begin{vmatrix} a_0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & b_0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ a_1 & a_0 & \cdots & 0 & b_1 & b_0 & \cdots & 0 \\ a_2 & a_1 & \ddots & 0 & b_2 & b_1 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & a_0 & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & b_0 \\ a_d & a_{d-1} & \cdots & \vdots & b_e & b_{e-1} & \cdots & \vdots \\ 0 & a_d & \ddots & \vdots & 0 & b_e & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & a_{d-1} & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & b_{e-1} \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & a_d & 0 & 0 & \cdots & b_e \end{vmatrix}$$

$$f(n) = \sum_{i=1}^D \sum_{j=0}^{m_i-1} c_{i,j} n^j \left(\frac{1}{|r_i|} \right)^n$$

If there are even only a few interprocedural and recursive calls, system of equations is too large, METRINOME explodes and runs out of time and memory

Optimizations

APC-IP

Optimization 1: Better Combinatorial Analysis

Before

Compute APC using

directly straightforward analytic
combinatorics

$$f(n) = \sum_{i=1}^D \sum_{j=0}^{m_i-1} c_{i,j} n^j \left(\frac{1}{|r_i|} \right)^n$$

Slow!

Optimization 1: Better Combinatorial Analysis

Before

Compute APC using
directly straightforward analytic
combinatorics

$$f(n) = \sum_{i=1}^D \sum_{j=0}^{m_i-1} c_{i,j} n^j \left(\frac{1}{|r_i|} \right)^n$$

Slow!

After

Compute APC using
Generalized Expansion Theorem for
Rational Generating Functions

GETRGF

Fast!

General Expansion Theorem for Rational Generating Functions (GETRGF)

If $g(x) = P(x)/Q(x)$, where $Q(x) = q_0(1 - \rho_1x)^{d_1}(1 - \rho_2x)^{d_2} \dots (1 - \rho_tx)^{d_t}$ and the numbers $(\rho_1, \rho_2, \dots, \rho_t)$ are distinct, and if $P(x)$ is a polynomial of degree less than $d_1 + d_2 + \dots + d_t$, then $[x^n]g(x) = f_1(n)\rho_1^n + f_2(n)\rho_2^n + \dots + f_t(n)\rho_t^n$, where each $f_k(n)$ is a polynomial of degree $d_k - 1$ with leading coefficient

$$a_k = \frac{P(1/\rho_k)}{(d_k - 1)!q_0 \prod_{j \neq k} (1 - \rho_j/\rho_k)^{d_j}}.$$

Intuition: we only need to compute a small number of coefficients to determine the highest order term for APC.

Optimization 1: Better Combinatorial Analysis

Full details in the paper!

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ABSTRACT

Software testing techniques like symbolic execution face significant challenges with path explosion. Asymptotic Path Complexity (APC) quantifies this path explosion complexity, but existing APC methods do not work for interprocedural functions in general. Our new algorithm, APC-IP, efficiently computes APC for a wider range of functions, including interprocedural ones, improving over previous methods in both speed and scope. We implement APC-IP atop the existing software lifetime, and test it against a benchmark of C functions, comparing it to existing and baseline approaches as well as computing it to the path explosion of the symbolic execution engine Klee. The results show that APC-IP not only aligns with previous APC values but also excels in performance, scalability, and handling complex source code. It also provides a complexity prediction of the number of paths explored by Klee, extending the APC metric's applicability and surpassing previous implementations.

CCS CONCEPTS

• Software and its engineering → Software performance, Software verification and validation • Mathematics of computing → Generating functions

KEYWORDS

Code Complexity, Path Explosion, Testing Complexity

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1 INTRODUCTION

Software testing and verification techniques rely on program path coverage to increase confidence in software correctness. However, for automated software testing approaches like symbolic execution, path explosion is a well-known bottleneck in code analysis [1, 5, 14]. Asymptotic path complexity (APC) is a metric that formalizes the degree of path explosion, thus quantifying the computational difficulty of achieving path coverage. Previous work [2] has demonstrated that asymptotic path complexity is a more accurate and refined metric to measure code complexity than other common complexity metrics such as cyclomatic [10] or NWATH [17] complexity. Further, it has been shown that asymptotic path complexity (APC) is useful in the context of automated software testing [5, 19], providing an upper bound on the growth rate of paths explored by a popular symbolic execution software such as Klee [5]. In earlier works, approaches to computing APC only handled intraprocedural analysis, including functions that make no recursive calls or make only self-recursive calls [5, 19]. In this paper, we extend and optimize the asymptotic path complexity (APC) metric to measure the complexity of interprocedural programs. We give a new APC algorithm, APC-IP, able to compute path complexity for interprocedural functions, which subsumes prior approaches and is significantly more scalable. Our APC-IP is an algorithm that computes the asymptotic path complexity of intraprocedural and interprocedural code. APC-IP thus provides a way to quickly predict the difficulty of automatic test generation for interprocedural and interprocedural code.

Contributions. We claim the following research contributions: APC-IP formalization. Extension of the theory and algorithms established for APC to account for interprocedural functions. Optimization Over All Previous APC Approaches. Replacing theoretical steps in previous algorithms to improve performance for both interprocedural and intraprocedural code. APC-IP Implementation. Implementing APC-IP atop MYRINOM, an existing APC analysis tool. APC-IP Empirical Validation. Verification that APC-IP gives an accurate APC for both interprocedural and intraprocedural, and is the fastest option to process complex source code. APC-IP is a predictor of path explosion in symbolic execution environments.

Algorithm 7 GETRGF ($g(x)$)

1: LET

$$g(x) = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}.$$

2: **if** ($\deg(P(x)) \geq \deg(Q(x))$) **then**

3: $P(x) \leftarrow R(x)$ **where**

▷ Make $\deg(P(x)) < \deg(Q(x))$

4: $R(x) \leftarrow$ remainder of $P(x)/Q(x)$

5: $r \leftarrow \text{Roots}(Q(x))$

6: $\rho \leftarrow$ inverses of the roots in r

7: $\rho_{\text{MAX}} \leftarrow$ maximum magnitude of all the ρ

8: $m \leftarrow$ maximum multiplicity among the ρ such that $|\rho_i| = \rho_{\text{MAX}}$

9: $\rho_k \leftarrow$ any ρ with magnitude ρ_{MAX} and multiplicity m

10: $q_0 \leftarrow$ constant term for $Q(x)$

11: **for each** ρ_k **do**

▷ Compute with GETRGF Theorem

$$a_k = \frac{P(1/\rho_k)}{(m-1)!q_0 \prod_{j \neq k} (1 - \rho_j/\rho_k)^m}.$$

12: $c \leftarrow \sum_{\rho_k} a_k$

13: $\text{APC} \leftarrow c \cdot n^{m-1} \rho_{\text{MAX}}^n$

14: **return** APC

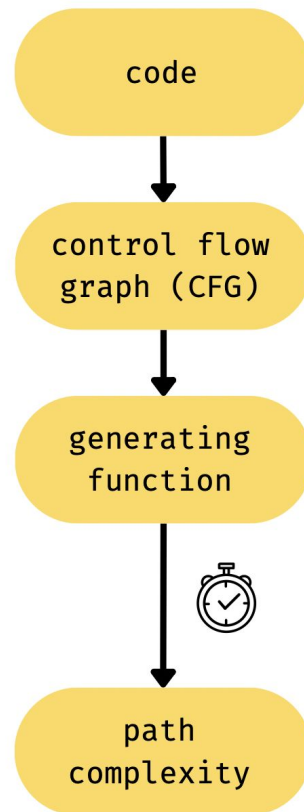
▷ Return asymptotic path complexity

Optimization 1: Replacing theoretical steps

Before

We computed path complexity with Taylor expansions of the generating function yielding the number of paths .

$$path(n) = \sum_{i=0}^D \sum_{j=0}^{m_i-1} c_{i,j} n^j \left(\frac{1}{r_i} \right)^n$$



Optimization 1: Replacing theoretical steps

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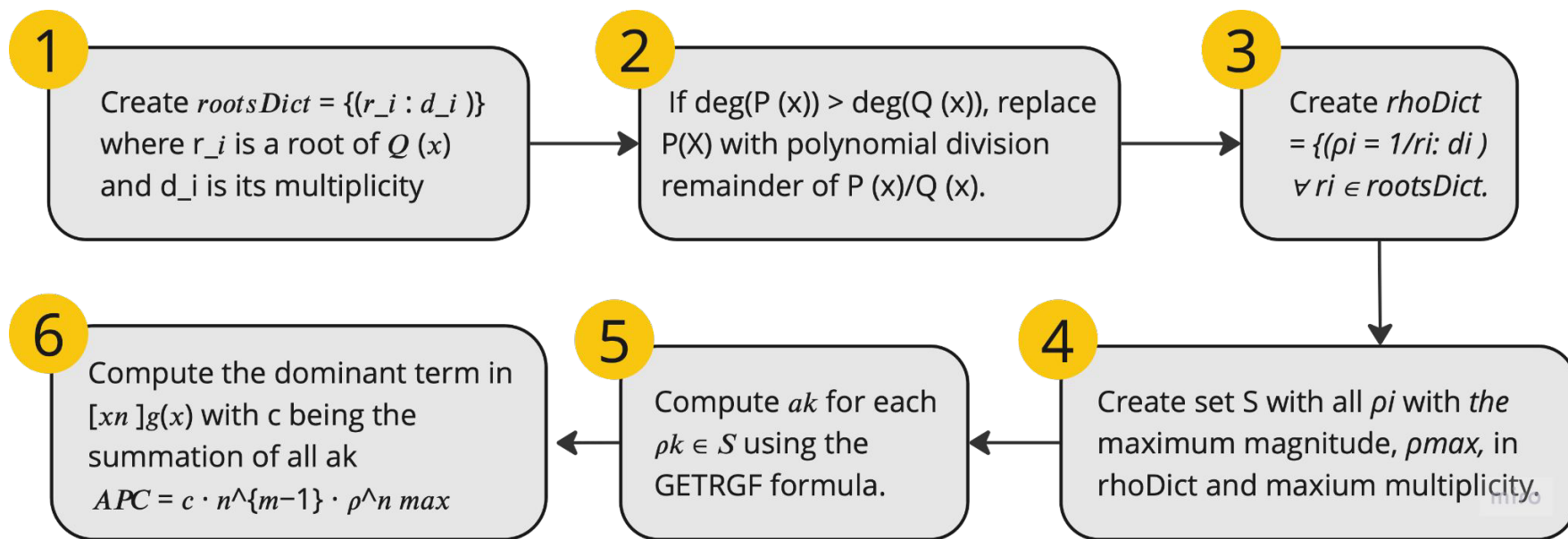
$$path(n) = \sum_{i=0}^D \sum_{j=0}^{m_i-1} c_{i,j} n^j \left(\frac{1}{r_i} \right)^n$$

After

New method is bounded by the roots of $Q(x)$.

GETRGF

Optimization 1: Replacing theoretical steps



Optimization 1: Replacing theoretical steps

Before

$$\textit{path complexity} = c \cdot n^{m-1} \cdot |\rho|^n$$

ρ is the inverse of the root of $Q(x)$ with the smallest magnitude

m is the maximum multiplicity of the roots among those with minimum magnitude

c is the sum of the a_k , shown at right

After

$$a_k = \frac{P(1/\rho_k)}{(m-1)!q_0 \prod_{j \neq k} (1 - \rho_j/\rho_k)^m}$$

q_0 is the constant term of $Q(x)$

ρ_k are the inverses of the roots with the same magnitude and multiplicity as ρ

ρ_j are all the distinct roots

Optimization 2: Careful “Chunking” of Systems of Equations

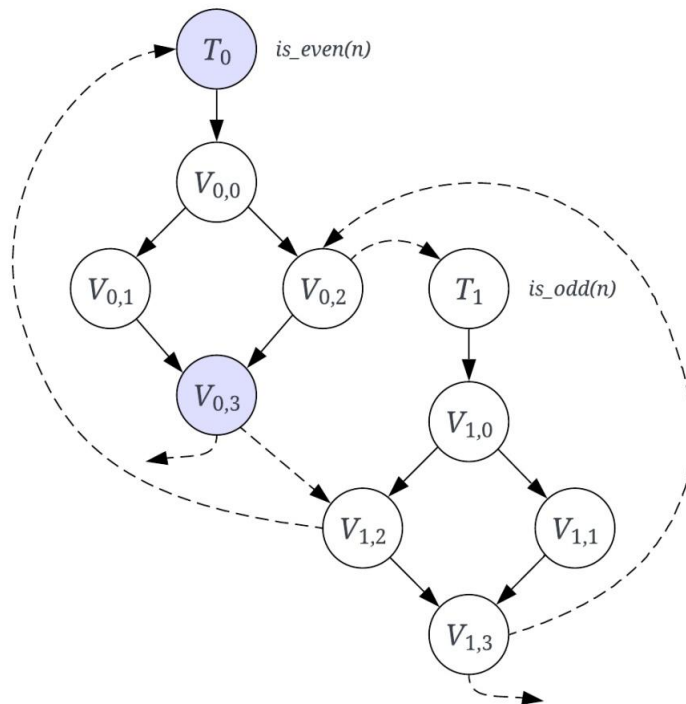
- APC-R treats this as one big system

System 0 (is_even)

$$\begin{aligned}T_0 &= V_{0,0}^x \\V_{0,0} &= V_{0,1}^x + V_{0,2}^x \\V_{0,1} &= V_{0,3}^x \\V_{0,2} &= T_1 V_{0,3}^x \\V_{0,3} &= 1\end{aligned}$$

System 1 (is_odd)

$$\begin{aligned}T_1 &= V_{1,0}^x \\V_{1,0} &= V_{1,1}^x + V_{1,2}^x \\V_{1,1} &= V_{1,3}^x \\V_{1,2} &= T_0 V_{1,3}^x \\V_{1,3} &= 1\end{aligned}$$



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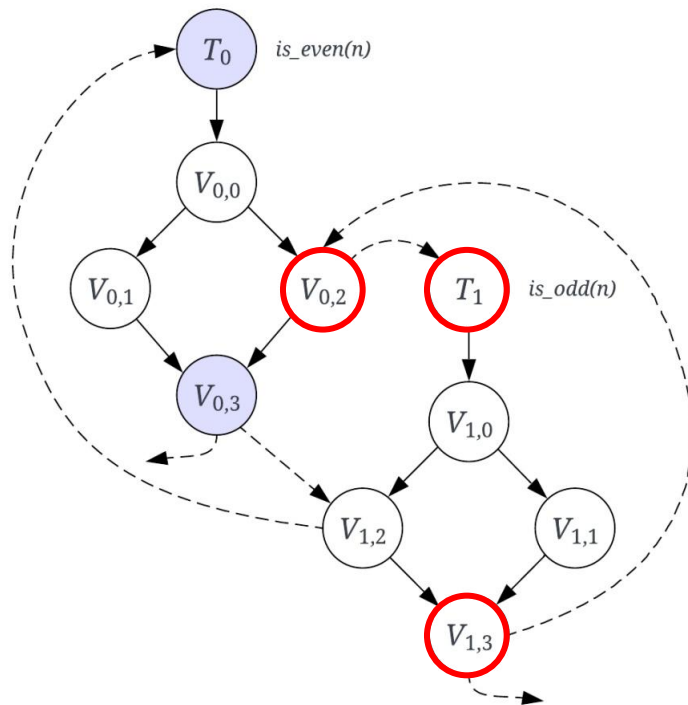
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APC-IP will instead

- reduce each sub-system as much as possible
- Solve while carefully respecting coupling variables (e.g. $V_{1,3}$, $V_{0,2}$, T_1)



Optimization 2: Careful “Chunking” of Systems of Equations

Full details in the paper!

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Algorithm 5 ELIMINATE-OPTIMIZED (Systems S , Vars V)

```
1:  $S = S_0, S_1, \dots, S_n$ 
2:  $T = \{\}$ 
3: for each  $i \in \text{len}(S)$  do ▷ Solve each system for  $T_i$ 
4:    $d \leftarrow$  substitution dictionary for eliminating
5:    $d = \{ \{V_k : \text{all eqns containing } V_k\} \forall V_k \in S_i \}$ 
6:    $T \leftarrow \text{add PARTIAL-ELIMINATE}(S_i, V_i, d)$ 
7:  $d = \{T_i : \{\text{all eqns} \in T \text{ containing } T_i\}\}$ 
8:  $v = \{T_0, T_1, \dots, T_n\}$  ▷ Variables for eliminating  $T_s$ 
9: return PARTIAL-ELIMINATE( $T, v, d$ ) ▷ Solve  $T_s$  for  $T_0$ 
```

Algorithm 6 PARTIAL-ELIMINATE (sys s , vars v , dict d)

```
1: if  $\text{len}(s) = 1$  then
2:   return  $s[0]$  ▷ Return  $T_i = A$ 
3:  $\text{var} = v[-1] \leftarrow$  var to eliminate
4:  $\text{eqn} = s[-1] \leftarrow$  eqn of form  $\text{var} = A$ 
5:  $\text{sub} \leftarrow$  right side of eqn, equal to var
6: if  $\text{var} \in \text{sub then}$  ▷ Must solve for var
7:   for each  $\text{eq} \in d[\text{var}]$  s.t.  $\text{eq}$  in bounds do
8:      $\text{sub} = \text{solve}(\text{eq}, \text{var})$ 
9:     if  $\text{len}(\text{sub}) = 1$  then ▷ Unique solution for var
10:      break
11: for each  $\text{eq} \in d[\text{var}]$  do
12:    $\text{eq} \leftarrow$  substitute var with sub
13:    $d \leftarrow$  update dict  $d$  after substitution
14: return PARTIAL-ELIMINATE( $s[-1], v[-1], d$ )
```

Takeaways for APC-IP

- More advanced combinatorial analysis of grammar using **GETRGF**
- More sophisticated **solving for systems of coupled equations**
- **Same** path complexity **results** as APC-R, but **faster!**

Experiments

Experimental Overview

- Benchmark Functions
- APC (recursive, interprocedural, naive interprocedural)
- Overall result
- APC and KLEE

Benchmark Functions

Benchmark Functions

- 76 well known C algorithms found in <https://github.com/TheAlgorithms/C> repository
 - Contains non-recursive, recursive, and interprocedural functions
 - Combination of straight line code, nested conditions, loops
- 3 running examples

Benchmark Functions

- 76 well known C algorithms found in <https://github.com/TheAlgorithms/C> repository
 - Contains non-recursive, recursive, and interprocedural functions
 - Combination of straight line code, nested conditions, loops
- 3 running examples

79 functions

APC

- APC-R: able to perform non recursive and recursive APC analysis on single functions
- NAPC-IP: APC-R with minimal modification (relabel variables) to handle interprocedural code
- APC-IP: fully interprocedural and optimized APC

APC: Result

- For 42 non-interprocedural functions, $\text{APC-R} = \text{NAPC-IP} = \text{APC-IP}$
- For 37 interprocedural functions, $\text{NAPC-IP} = \text{APC-IP}$
- But APC-IP is FASTER!
 - Majority run < 1 seconds
 - Most run < 5 seconds
 - 3 outliers ~100 seconds

Overall result: APC-R vs APC-IP

- 42 non-interprocedural code
- APC-IP is faster in 32 cases, in 5 cases APC-IP is more than 100 times faster than APC-R
 - EX: bubble sort: *>200s → 0.63s*.
- When APC-IP is slower than APC-R, both are less than 1 second

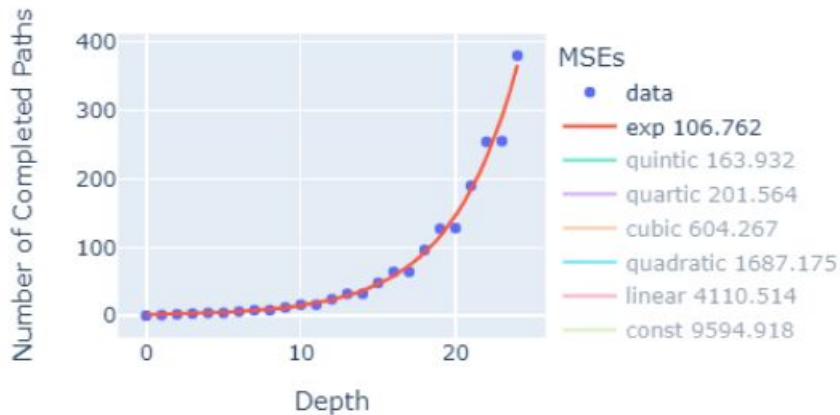
Overall result: NAPC-IP vs APC-IP

- 79 functions
- APC-IP is faster in 65 cases, in 16 cases APC-IP is 100 times faster than NAPC-IP
 - EX: Heap sort: *>6000s → 4.1s*
- When APC-IP is slower, it is still <1 second

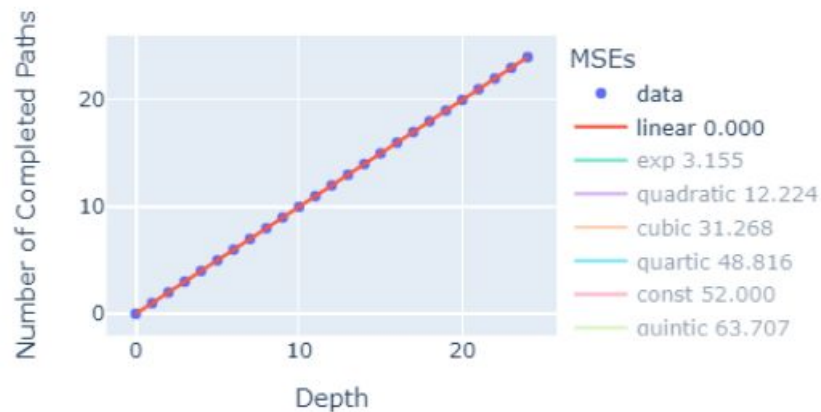
KLEE Data: Curve Fitting

- Number of paths explored for increasing depth

binary_search_rec_normal: exp



linear_search_rec_normal: linear



Results: APC and KLEE

- Ran KLEE on 57/79 functions.
- APC-IP successfully predicts the upper bound on KLEE's path explosion, even for interprocedural functions!
- Detailed data in the PAPER.

Table 4: APC and KLEE data on C files showing APC-IP and best fit curve for KLEE path explosion.

		APC		KLEE		
Index	Function	APC-IP	APC-IP Time(s)	Best Fit	APC-IP	KLEE Time(s)
1	Even-Odd §	$n/3$	0.144	n	yes	24.95
2	GCD †	$n/3$	0.223	n	yes	2.58
3	Floyd Alg. §	$0.125 * n^2$	0.635	$9.58 * 1.06^n$	no, but close	34.06
4	Catalan §	n^3	0.272	n	upper bound	215.5
5	Fib. Search	$2.33 * 1.22^n$	0.88	$5.71 * 1.28^n$	yes	63.69
6	Bead Sort	$0.37 * 1.30^n$	4.91	$1.90 * 1.54^n$	yes	23.31
7	Fib. (R) †	1.34^n	0.123	n	upper bound	1682.06

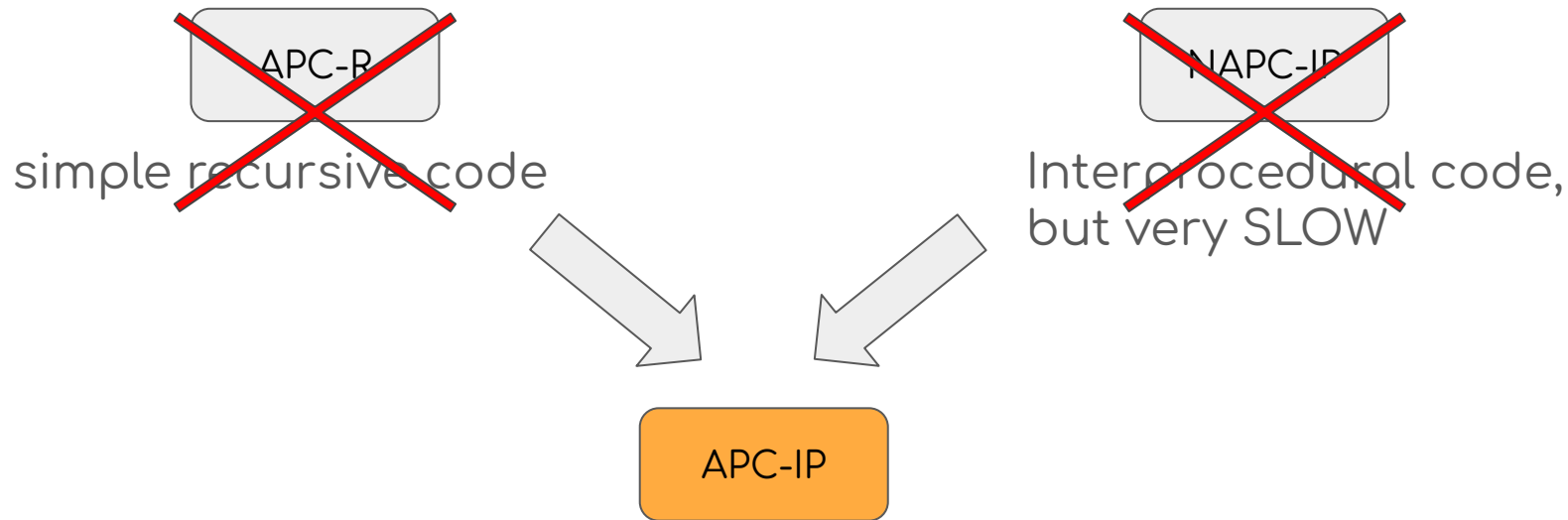
§ represents that the source code is interprocedural.

† This version of the function is implemented recursively.

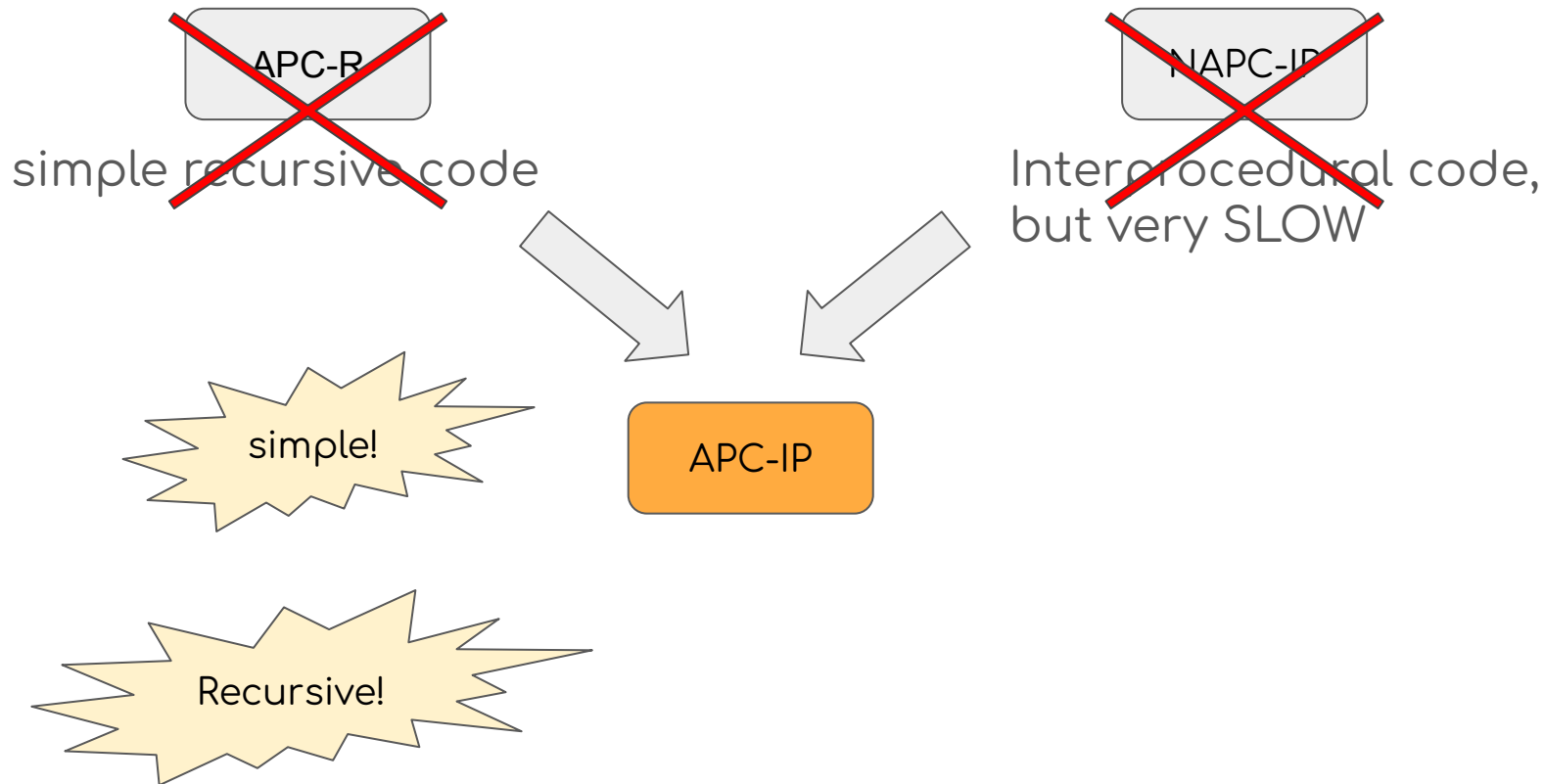
Results: APC and KLEE

- Ran KLEE on 57 functions.
- 46 functions, APC-IP is in the same complexity class as KLEE's best fit line
 - KLEE bound exploration by branch count, while APC-IP is by edge count in CFG
- 53 APC-IP bound KLEE best fit line
- 3 cases we don't have enough data for the best fit line
- 1 case where KLEE is exponential but APC-IP is quadratic
 - Suspect this is due to overfitting

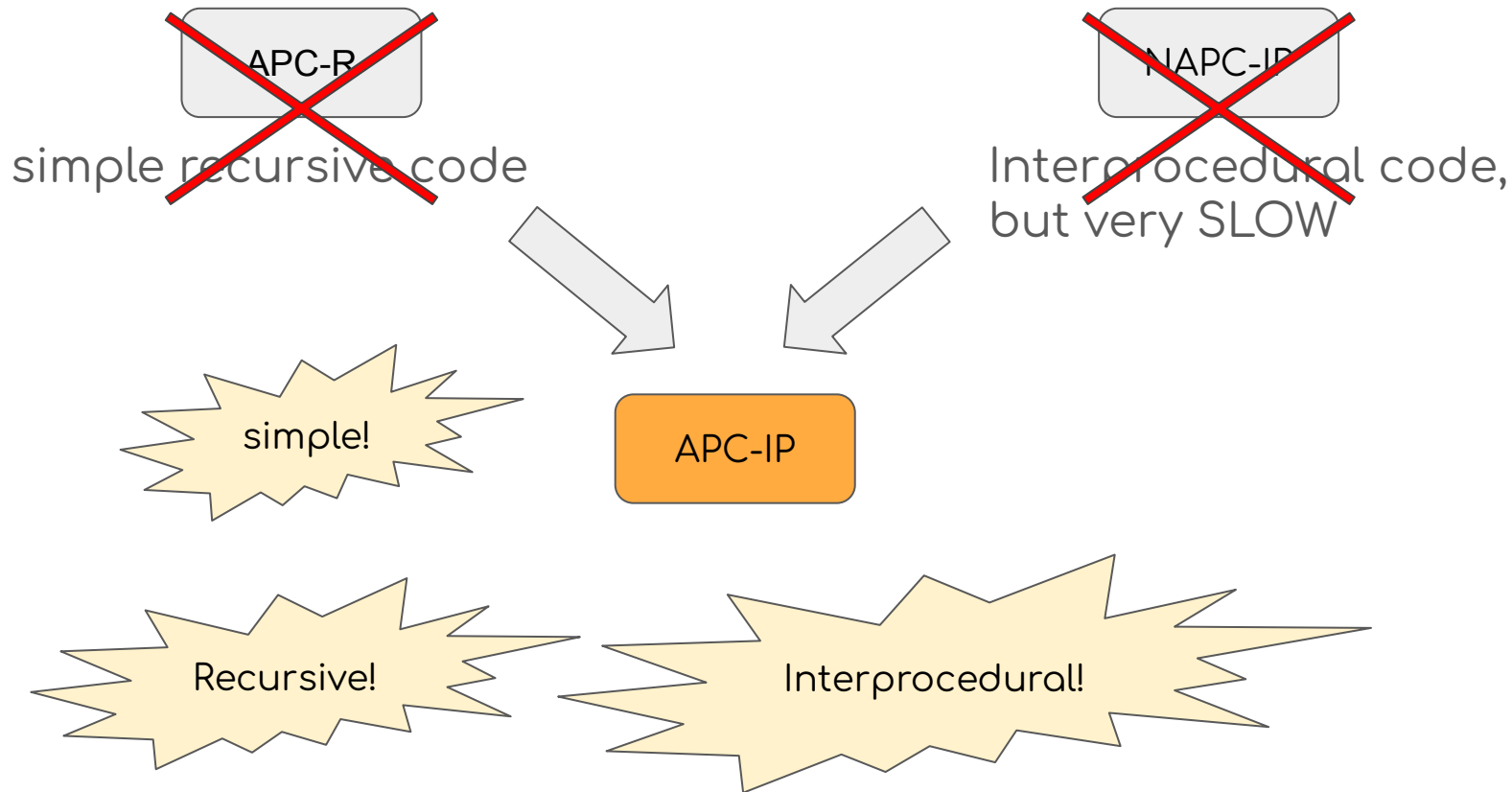
Conclusion



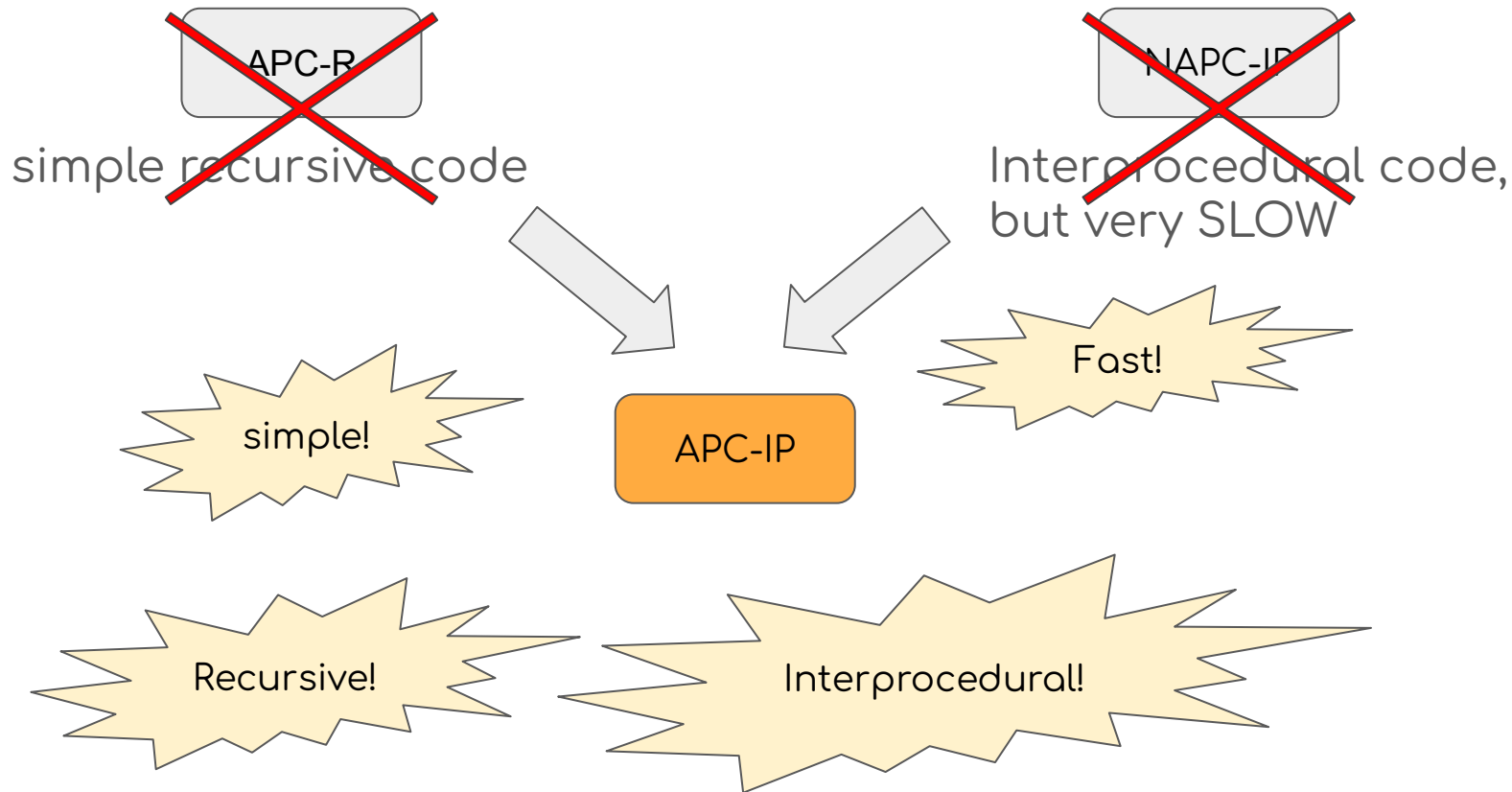
Conclusion



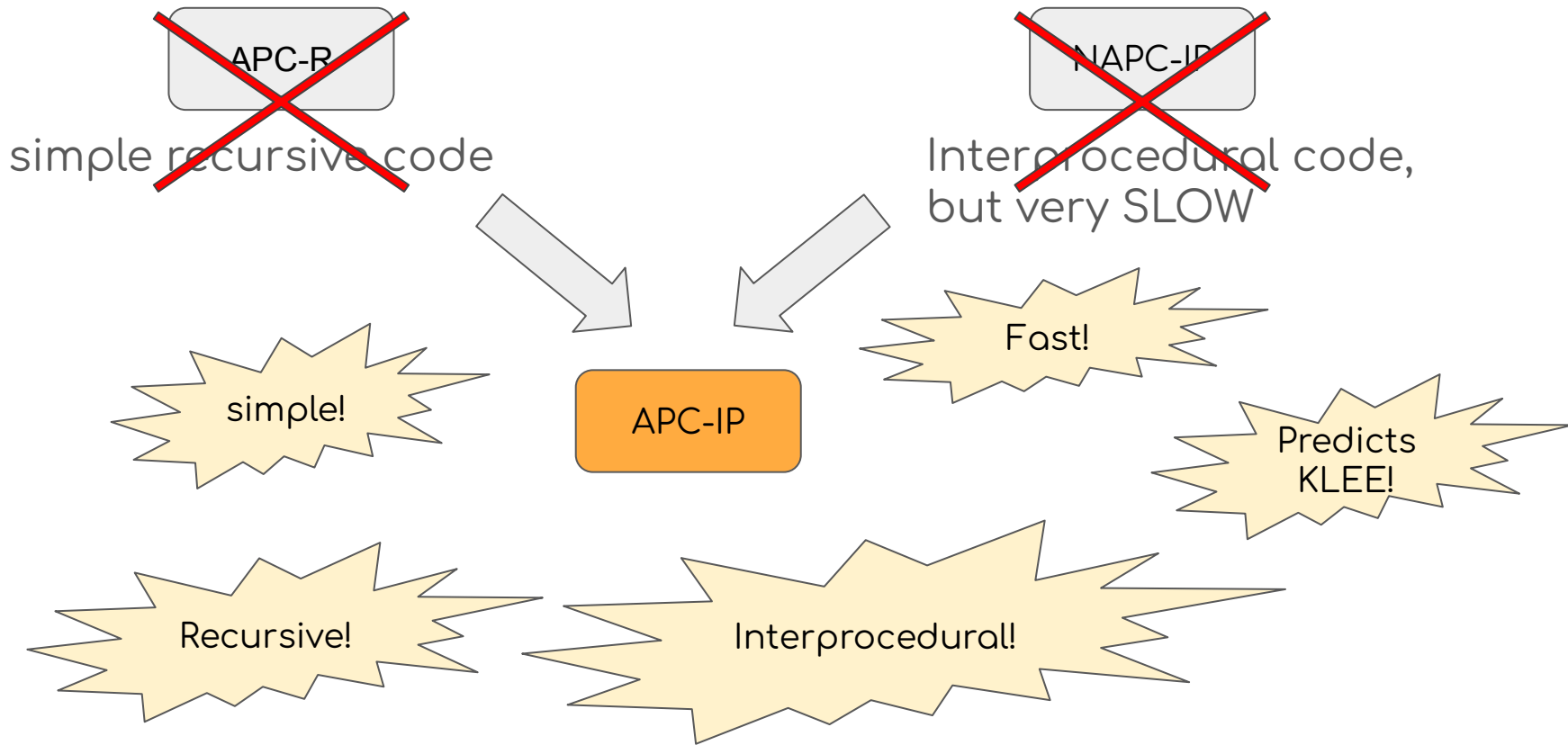
Conclusion



Conclusion



Conclusion



Conclusion

- APC-IP provides a sound upper bound on the degree of KLEE's path explosion when testing simple, recursive, or interprocedural programs.
- For intraprocedural functions, APC-IP = APC-R and FASTER!
- For interprocedural functions, APC-IP can compute correct APC usually in under 5 seconds.
- APC-IP subsumes earlier APC, and with drastic improvements on performance cost.

Future Work

- [Done/Test stage] Expand APC to process programs in more common programming languages, such as Python and Java.
- [To do] Continuing to scale APC to meet the scale of today's industry code-bases.

Takeaways

Path Complexity

Asymptotic upper bound on the
number of paths in control flow
graph from start to exit
up to a given execution depth.

APC-IP (Interprocedural Asymptotic Path Complexity)

APC-IP **subsumes** earlier APC work

- produces the same results on the simpler benchmarks

APC-IP **extends** earlier APC work

- handles fully interprocedural code, unlike previous work

APC-IP **outperforms** earlier APC work

- much faster when it matters

APC-IP **predicts** symbolic execution explosion rate

- upper bound on execution paths explored by KLEE

Thank you!



Metrinome



Asymptotic
Path Complexity
 $O(f(\text{depth}))$

<https://github.com/hmc-alpaqa/metrinome>

Ablation Study

Optimization 1: Effects of GETRGF on the runtime

- Euclidean algorithm: *54.5s → 0.06s*

Optimization 2: Effects of “chunking” systems of equations

- Heap sort: *>6000s → 1.88s*
- When Naive is fast (< 1 s), Optimized is not as fast but still < 1s
- When Naive explode (>100 s), Optimized can be up to 1000 times faster, still in 1-2s range

Takeaway: APC-IP performs much better for complex functions!

Conclusion and Future

- APC can be accurately calculated in Metrinome
- KLEE behavior can be predicted by Metrinome
- Next Steps
 - Further experimental validation
 - More robust numerical computing (e.g. fix APC computation for mergesort)
 - Implement full interprocedural analysis

```
Metrinome

Starting the REPL...
/app/code > convert tests/cFiles/
Klee Compiler Optimization Data
array_input.c      fse_2020_benchmark      nested_loops.c      problem8.c
benchmark          fse_2020_benchmark_wHelpers  print_source_code.c  problem9.c
collatz.c          fse_with_helper          problem1.c           recursive_func.c
coreutils-832      get_sign_klee.c          problem2.c           rosetta-code-c
exports            if_then_loop.c           problem3.c           sign.c
file_with_stdio.c  inlining_tests           problem4.c           sorting-algs-c
fib.c              merge_sort.c             problem5.c           problem6.c
file_with_stdio.c  multiple_funcs.c         problem6.c           problem7.c
/app/code > convert tests/cFiles/collatz.c
~> CONVERTED SUCCESSFULLY ~>
> Created graph objects collatz_cfg_Z12countCollatz1.dot
/app/code > metrics *
> Computing metrics for collatz_cfg_Z12countCollatz1
Metrics for collatz_cfg_Z12countCollatz1
```

Metric	Result	Time Elapsed
Cyclomatic Complexity	3	0.00012 seconds
NPath Complexity	3	0.00019 seconds
Path Complexity	(APC: 1.1892e+n, Path Complexity: 2.8778e+1.1892e+n + 2.5477)	0.54862 seconds

```
/app/code > █
```



Metrinome

<https://github.com/hmc-alpaqa/metrinome>