

# Accelerating Verified-Compiler Development with a Verified Rewriting Engine

Jason Gross   

CSAIL, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139, USA  
MIRI, USA

Andres Erbsen  

CSAIL, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139, USA

Miraya Poddar-Agrawal  

Reed College, 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd, Portland, OR 97202, USA

Jade Philipoom 

CSAIL, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139, USA  
Google

Adam Chlipala   

CSAIL, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139, USA

## Abstract

Compilers are a prime target for formal verification, since compiler bugs invalidate higher-level correctness guarantees, but compiler changes may become more labor-intensive to implement, if they must come with proof patches. One appealing approach is to present compilers as sets of algebraic rewrite rules, which a generic engine can apply efficiently. Now each rewrite rule can be proved separately, with no need to revisit past proofs for other parts of the compiler. We present the first realization of this idea, in the form of a framework for the Coq proof assistant. Our new Coq command takes normal proved theorems and combines them automatically into fast compilers with proofs. We applied our framework to improve the Fiat Cryptography toolchain for generating cryptographic arithmetic, producing an extracted command-line compiler that is about  $1000\times$  faster while actually featuring simpler compiler-specific proofs.

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## 1 Introduction

Formally verified compilers like CompCert [15] and CakeML [14] are success stories for proof assistants, helping close a trust gap for one of the most important categories of software infrastructure. A popular compiler cannot afford to stay still; developers will add new backends, new language features, and better optimizations. Proofs must be adjusted as these improvements arrive. It makes sense that the author of a new piece of compiler code must prove its correctness, but ideally there would be no need to revisit old proofs. There has been limited work, though, on avoiding that kind of coupling. Tatlock and Lerner [19] demonstrated a streamlined way to extend CompCert with new verified optimizations driven by dataflow analysis, but we are not aware of past work that supports easy extension for compilers from functional languages to C code. We present our work targeting that style.

One strategy for writing compilers modularly is to exercise foresight in designing a core that will change very rarely, such that feature iteration happens outside the core. Specifically, phrasing the compiler in terms of rewrite rules allows clean abstractions and conceptual



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boundaries [13]. Then, most desired iteration on the compiler can be achieved through iteration on the rewrite rules.

It is surprisingly difficult to realize this modular approach with good performance. Verified compilers can either be proof-producing (certifying) or proven-correct (certified). Proof-producing compilers usually operate on the functional languages of the proof assistants that they are written in, and variable assignments are encoded as let binders. All existing proof-producing rewriting strategies scale at least quadratically in the number of binders. This performance scaling is inadequate for applications like Fiat Cryptography [9] where the generated code has 1000s of variables in a single function. Proven-correct compilers do not suffer from this asymptotic blowup in the number of binders.

In this paper, we present **the first proven-correct compiler-builder toolkit parameterized on rewrite rules**. Arbitrary sets of Coq theorems (quantified equalities) can be assembled by a single new Coq command into an extraction-ready verified compiler. We did not need to extend the trusted code base, so our compiler compiler need not be trusted. We achieve both good performance of compiler runs and good performance of generated code, via addressing a number of scale-up challenges vs. past work.

We evaluate our builder toolkit by replacing a key component of Fiat Cryptography [9], a Coq library that generates code for big-integer modular arithmetic at the heart of elliptic-curve-cryptography algorithms. Routines generated (with proof) with Fiat Cryptography now ship with all major Web browsers and all major mobile operating systems. With our improved compiler architecture, it became easy to add two new backends and a variety of new supported source-code features, and we were easily able to try out new optimizations.

Replacing Fiat Cryptography’s original compiler with the compiler generated by our toolkit has two additional benefits. Fiat Cryptography was previously only used successfully to build C code for the two most widely used curves (P-256 and Curve25519). Our prior version’s execution timed out trying to compile code for the third most widely used curve (P-384). Using our new toolkit has made it possible to generate compiler-synthesized code for P-384 while generating completely identical code for the primes handled by the previous version, about 1000× more quickly. Additionally, Fiat Cryptography previously required source code to be written in continuation-passing style, and our compiler has enabled a direct-style approach, which pays off in simplifying theorem statements and proofs.

## 1.1 Related Work

Assume our mission is to take libraries of purely functional combinators, apply them to compile-time parameters, and compile the results down to lean C code. Furthermore, we ask for machine-checked proofs that the C programs preserve the behavior of the higher-order functional programs we started with. What good ideas from the literature can we build on?

Hickey and Nogin [13] discuss at length how to build compilers around rewrite rules. “All program transformations, from parsing to code generation, are cleanly isolated and specified as term rewrites.” While they note that the correctness of the compiler is thus reduced to the correctness of the rewrite rules, they did not prove correctness mechanically. Furthermore, it is not clear that they manage to avoid the asymptotic blow-up associated with proof-producing rewriting of deeply nested let-binders. They give no performance numbers, so it is hard to say whether or not their compiler performs at the scale necessary for Fiat Cryptography. Their rewrite-engine driver is unproven OCaml code, while we will produce custom drivers with Coq proofs.

$\mathcal{R}_{tac}$  [16] is a more general framework for verified proof tactics in Coq, including an experimental reflective version of `rewrite_strat` supporting arbitrary setoid relations, unification

variables, and arbitrary semidecidable side conditions solvable by other verified tactics, using de Bruijn indexing to manage binders. We found that  $\mathcal{R}_{tac}$  misses a critical feature for compiling large programs: preserving subterm sharing. As a result, our experiments with compiler construction yielded clear asymptotic slowdown vs. what we eventually accomplished.  $\mathcal{R}_{tac}$  is also more heavyweight to use, for instance requiring that theorems be restated manually in a deep embedding to bring them into automation procedures. Furthermore, we are not aware of any past experiments driving verified compilers with  $\mathcal{R}_{tac}$ .

Aehlig et al. [1] came closest to a fitting approach, using *normalization by evaluation* (NbE) [4] to bootstrap reduction of open terms on top of full reduction, as built into a proof assistant. However, it was simultaneously true that they expanded the proof-assistant trusted code base in ways specific to their technique, and that they did not report any experiments actually using the tool for partial evaluation (just traditional full reduction), potentially hiding performance-scaling challenges or other practical issues. For instance, they also do not preserve subterm sharing explicitly, and they represent variable references as unary natural numbers (de Bruijn-style). They also require that rewrite rules be embodied in ML code, rather than stated as natural “native” lemmas of the proof assistant. We will follow their basic outline with important modifications.

Our implementation builds on fast full reduction in Coq’s kernel, via a virtual machine [11] or compilation to native code [6] (neither verified). Especially the latter is similar in adopting NbE for full reduction, simplifying even under  $\lambda$ s, on top of a more traditional implementation of OCaml that never executes preemptively under  $\lambda$ s. Neither approach unifies support for rewriting with proved rules, and partial evaluation only applies in very limited cases.

A variety of forms of pragmatic partial evaluation have been demonstrated, with Lightweight Modular Staging [18] in Scala as one of the best-known current examples. The LMS-Verify system [2] can be used for formal verification of generated code after-the-fact. Typically LMS-Verify has been used with relatively shallow properties (though potentially applied to larger and more sophisticated code bases than we tackle), not scaling to the kinds of functional-correctness properties that concern us here.

So, overall, to our knowledge, no past compiler as a set of rewrite rules has come with a full proof of correctness as a standalone functional program. Related prior work with mechanized proofs suffered from both performance bottlenecks and usability problems, the latter in requiring that eligible rewrite rules be stated in special deep embeddings.

## 1.2 Our Solution

Our variant on the technique of Aehlig et al. [1] has these advantages:

- It integrates with a general-purpose, foundational proof assistant, **without growing the trusted code base**.
- For a wide variety of initial functional programs, it provides **fast** partial evaluation with reasonable memory use.
- It allows reduction that **mixes rules of the definitional equality** with *equalities proven explicitly as theorems*.
- It allows **rapid iteration** on rewrite rules with *minimal verification overhead*.
- It **preserves sharing** of common subterms.
- It also allows **extraction of standalone compilers**.

Our contributions include answers to a number of challenges that arise in scaling NbE-based partial evaluation in a proof assistant. First, we rework the approach of Aehlig et al. [1] to function *without extending a proof assistant’s trusted code base*, which, among

other challenges, requires us to prove termination of reduction and encode pattern matching explicitly (leading us to adopt the performance-tuned approach of Maranget [17]). We also improve on Coq-specific related work (e.g., of Malecha and Bengtson [16]) by allowing rewrites to be written in natural Coq form (not special embedded syntax-tree types), while supporting optimizations associated with past unverified engines (e.g., Boespflug [5]).

Second, using partial evaluation to generate residual terms thousands of lines long raises *new scaling challenges*:

- Output terms may contain so *many nested variable binders* that we expect it to be performance-prohibitive to perform bookkeeping operations on first-order-encoded terms (e.g., with de Bruijn indices, as is done in  $\mathcal{R}_{tac}$  by Malecha and Bengtson [16]). For instance, while the reported performance experiments of Aehlig et al. [1] generate only closed terms with no binders, Fiat Cryptography may generate a single routine (e.g., multiplication for curve P-384) with nearly a thousand nested binders.
- Naive representation of terms without proper *sharing of common subterms* can lead to fatal term-size blow-up.
- Unconditional rewrite rules are in general insufficient, and we need *rules with side conditions*. E.g., Fiat Cryptography depends on checking lack-of-overflow conditions.
- However, it is also not reasonable to expect a general engine to discharge all side conditions on the spot. We need integration with *abstract interpretation*.

Briefly, our respective solutions to these problems are the *parametric higher-order abstract syntax (PHOAS)* [7] term encoding, a *let-lifting* transformation threaded throughout reduction, extension of rewrite rules with executable Boolean side conditions, and a design pattern that uses decorator function calls to include analysis results in a program.

Finally, we carry out the *first large-scale performance-scaling evaluation* of a verified rewrite-rule-based compiler, covering all elliptic curves from the published Fiat Cryptography experiments, along with microbenchmarks.

We pause to give a motivating example before presenting the core structure of our engine (Section 3), the additional scaling challenges we faced (Section 4), experiments (Section 5), and conclusions. Our implementation is attached.

## 2 A Motivating Example

Our compilation style involves source programs that mix higher-order functions and inductive types. We want to compile to C code, reducing away uses of fancier features while seizing opportunities for arithmetic simplification. Here is a small but illustrative example.

```
Definition prefixSums (ls : list nat) : list nat :=
  let ls' := combine ls (seq 0 (length ls)) in
  let ls'' := map (λ p, fst p * snd p) ls' in
  let '(_, ls''') := fold_left (λ '(acc, ls'') n,
    let acc' := acc + n in (acc', acc' :: ls'')) ls'' (0, []) in ls'''.
```

This function first computes list  $ls'$  that pairs each element of input list  $ls$  with its position, so, for instance, list  $[a; b; c]$  becomes  $[(a, 0); (b, 1); (c, 2)]$ . Then we map over the list of pairs, multiplying the components at each position. Finally, we compute all prefix sums.

We would like to specialize this function to particular list lengths. That is, we know in advance how many list elements we will pass in, but we do not know the values of those elements. For a given length, we can construct a schematic list with one free variable per element. For example, to specialize to length four, we can apply the function to list  $[a; b; c; d]$ , and we expect this output:

```
let acc := b + c * 2 in let acc' := acc + d * 3 in [acc'; acc; b; 0]
```

179 We do not quite have C code yet, but, composing this code with another routine to  
180 consume the output list, we easily arrive at a form that looks almost like three-address code  
181 and is quite easy to translate to C and many other languages.

182 Notice how subterm sharing via **lets** is important. As list length grows, we avoid  
183 quadratic blowup in term size through sharing. Also notice how we simplified the first two  
184 multiplications with  $a \cdot 0 = 0$  and  $b \cdot 1 = b$  (each of which requires explicit proof in Coq),  
185 using other arithmetic identities to avoid introducing new variables for the first two prefix  
186 sums of `ls''`, as they are themselves constants or variables, after simplification.

187 To set up our compiler, we prove the algebraic laws that it should use for simplification,  
188 starting with basic arithmetic identities.

```
Lemma zero_plus : ∀ n, 0 + n = n.      Lemma times_zero : ∀ n, n * 0 = 0.
Lemma plus_zero : ∀ n, n + 0 = n.      Lemma times_one  : ∀ n, n * 1 = n.
```

189 Next, we prove a law for each list-related function, connecting it to the primitive-recursion  
190 combinator for some inductive type (natural numbers or lists, as appropriate). We also use a  
191 further marker `ident.eagerly` to ask the compiler to simplify a case of primitive recursion  
192 by complete traversal of the designated argument's constructor tree.

```
Lemma eval_map A B (f : A -> B) l
: map f l = ident.eagerly list_rect _ _ [] (λ x _ l', f x :: l') l.
Lemma eval_fold_left A B (f : A -> B -> A) l a
: fold_left f l a = ident.eagerly list_rect _ _ (λ a, a) (λ x _ r a, r (f a x)) l a.
Lemma eval_combine A B (la : list A) (lb : list B)
: combine la lb =
list_rect _ (λ _, []) (λ x _ r lb, list_case (λ _, _) [] (λ y ys, (x,y)::r ys) lb) la lb.
Lemma eval_length A (ls : list A)
: length ls = list_rect _ 0 (λ _ _ n, S n) ls.
```

193 With all the lemmas available, we can package them up into a rewriter, which triggers  
194 generation of a specialized compiler and its soundness proof. Our Coq plugin introduces a  
195 new command **Make** for building rewriters

```
Make rewriter := Rewriter For (zero_plus, plus_zero, times_zero, times_one, eval_map,
  eval_fold_left, do_again eval_length, do_again eval_combine,
  eval_rect nat, eval_rect list, eval_rect prod) (with delta) (with extra idents (seq)).
```

196 Most inputs to **Rewriter For** list quantified equalities to use for left-to-right rewriting.  
197 However, we also use options `do_again`, to request that some rules trigger extra bottom-up  
198 passes after being used for rewriting; `eval_rect`, to queue up eager evaluation of a call to  
199 a primitive-recursion combinator on a known recursive argument; `with delta`, to request  
200 evaluation of all monomorphic operations on concrete inputs; and `with extra idents`, to  
201 inform the engine of further permitted identifiers that do not appear directly in any of the  
202 rewrite rules.

203 Our plugin also provides new tactics like **Rewrite\_rhs\_for**, which applies a rewriter to  
204 the right-hand side of an equality goal. That last tactic is just what we need to synthesize a  
205 specialized `prefixSums` for list length four, along with its correctness proof.

```
Definition prefixSums4 :
{f:nat->nat->nat->nat->list nat | ∀ a b c d, f a b c d = prefixSums [a;b;c;d]}
:= ltac:(eexists; Rewrite_rhs_for rewriter; reflexivity).
```

206 That compiler execution ran inside of Coq, but an even more pragmatic approach is  
 207 to *extract* the compiler as a standalone program in OCaml or Haskell. Such a translation  
 208 is possible because the `Make` command produces a proved program in Gallina, Coq’s logic.  
 209 As a result, our reworking of Fiat Cryptography compilation culminated in extraction of a  
 210 command-line OCaml program that developers in industry have been able to run without  
 211 our help, where Fiat Cryptography previously required installing and running Coq, with an  
 212 elaborate build process to capture its output. It is also true that the standalone program is  
 213 about 10× as fast as execution within Coq, though the trusted code base is larger.

### 214 3 The Structure of a Rewriter

215 We are mostly guided by Aehlig et al. [1] but made a number of crucial changes. Let us  
 216 review the basic idea of the approach of Aehlig et al. First, their supporting library contains:

- 217 1. Within the logic of the proof assistant (Isabelle/HOL, in their case), a type of syntax  
 218 trees for ML programs is defined, with an associated (trusted) operational semantics.
- 219 2. They also wrote a reduction function in (deeply embedded) ML, parameterized on a  
 220 function to choose the next rewrite, and proved it sound once-and-for-all.

221 Given a set of rewrite rules and a term to simplify, their main tactic must:

- 222 1. *Generate a (deeply embedded) ML program that decides which rewrite rule, if any, to*  
 223 *apply at the top node of a syntax tree, along with a proof of its soundness.*
- 224 2. *Generate a (deeply embedded) ML term standing for the term we set out to simplify, with*  
 225 *a proof that it means the same as the original.*
- 226 3. Combining the general proof of the rewrite engine with proofs generated by reification  
 227 (the prior two steps), conclude that an application of the reduction function to the reified  
 228 rules and term is indeed an ML term that generates correct answers.
- 229 4. “Throw the ML term over the wall,” using a general code-generation framework for  
 230 Isabelle/HOL [12]. Trusted code compiles the ML code into the concrete syntax of  
 231 Standard ML, and compiles it, and runs it, asserting an axiom about the outcome.

232 Here is where our approach differs at that level of detail:

- 233 ■ Our reduction engine is written *as a normal Gallina functional program*, rather than  
 234 within a deeply embedded language. As a result, we are able to prove its type-correctness  
 235 and termination, and we are able to run it within Coq’s kernel.
- 236 ■ We do *compile-time specialization of the reduction engine* to sets of rewrite rules, removing  
 237 overheads of generality.

#### 238 3.1 Our Approach in Ten Steps

239 Here is a bit more detail on the steps that go into applying our Coq plugin, many of which  
 240 we expand on in the following sections. For `Make` to precompute a rewriter:

- 241 1. The given lemma statements are scraped for which named identifiers to encode.
- 242 2. Inductive types enumerating all available primitive types and functions are emitted. This  
 243 allows us to achieve the performance gains attributed in Boespflug [5] to having native  
 244 metalanguage constructors for each constant, without manual coding.
- 245 3. Tactics generate all of the necessary definitions and prove all of the necessary lemmas  
 246 for dealing with this particular set of inductive codes. Definitions include operations like  
 247 Boolean equality on type codes and lemmas like “all types have decidable equality.”
- 248 4. The statements of rewrite rules are reified and soundness and syntactic-well-formedness  
 249 lemmas are proven about each of them.

250 5. Definitions and lemmas needed to prove correctness are assembled into a single package.

251 Then, to rewrite in a goal, the following steps are performed:

- 252 1. Rearrange the goal into a single quantifier-free logical formula.
- 253 2. Reify a selected subterm and replace it with a call to our denotation function.
- 254 3. Rewrite with a theorem, into a form calling our rewriter.
- 255 4. Call Coq's built-in full reduction (**vm\_compute**) to reduce this application.
- 256 5. Run standard call-by-value reduction to simplify away use of the denotation function.

257 The object language of our rewriter is nearly simply typed.

258  $e ::= \text{App } e_1 \ e_2 \mid \text{Let } v = e_1 \ \text{In } e_2 \mid \text{Abs } (\lambda v. e) \mid \text{Var } v \mid \text{Ident } i$   
259

260 The **Ident** case is for identifiers, which are described by an enumeration specific to a use of  
261 our library. For example, the identifiers might be codes for  $+$ ,  $\cdot$ , and literal constants. We  
262 write  $\llbracket e \rrbracket$  for a standard denotational semantics.

## 263 3.2 Pattern-Matching Compilation and Evaluation

264 Aehlig et al. [1] feed a specific set of user-provided rewrite rules to their engine by generating  
265 code for an ML function, which takes in deeply embedded term syntax (actually *doubly* deeply  
266 embedded, within the syntax of the deeply embedded ML!) and uses ML pattern matching  
267 to decide which rule to apply at the top level. Thus, they delegate efficient implementation  
268 of pattern matching to the underlying ML implementation. As we instead build our rewriter  
269 in Coq's logic, we have no such option to defer to ML.

270 We could follow a naive strategy of repeatedly matching each subterm against a pattern  
271 for every rewrite rule, as in the rewriter of Malecha and Bengtson [16], but in that case we  
272 do a lot of duplicate work when rewrite rules use overlapping function symbols. Instead, we  
273 adopted the approach of Maranget [17], who describes compilation of pattern matches in  
274 OCaml to decision trees that eliminate needless repeated work (for example, decomposing  
275 an expression into  $x + y + z$  only once even if two different rules match on that pattern).

276 There are three steps to turn a set of rewrite rules into a functional program that takes  
277 in an expression and reduces according to the rules. The first step is pattern-matching  
278 compilation: we must compile the left-hand sides of the rewrite rules to a decision tree that  
279 describes how and in what order to decompose the expression, as well as describing which  
280 rewrite rules to try at which steps of decomposition. Because the decision tree is merely a  
281 decomposition hint, we require no proofs about it to ensure soundness of our rewriter. The  
282 second step is decision-tree evaluation, during which we decompose the expression as per the  
283 decision tree, selecting which rewrite rules to attempt. The only correctness lemma needed  
284 for this stage is that any result it returns is equivalent to picking some rewrite rule and  
285 rewriting with it. The third and final step is to actually rewrite with the chosen rule. Here  
286 the correctness condition is that we must not change the semantics of the expression.

287 While pattern matching begins with comparing one pattern against one expression,  
288 Maranget's approach works with intermediate goals that check multiple patterns against  
289 multiple expressions. A decision tree describes how to match a vector (or list) of patterns  
290 against a vector of expressions. It is built from these constructors:

- 291 ■ **TryLeaf**  $k$  **onfailure**: Try the  $k^{\text{th}}$  rewrite rule; if it fails, keep going with **onfailure**.
- 292 ■ **Failure**: Abort; nothing left to try.
- 293 ■ **Switch** **icases** **app\_case** **default**: With the first element of the vector, match on its  
294 kind; if it is an identifier matching something in **icases**, which is a list of pairs of



identifiers and decision trees, remove the first element of the vector and run that decision tree; if it is an application and `app_case` is not `None`, try the `app_case` decision tree, replacing the first element of each vector with the two elements of the function and the argument it is applied to; otherwise, do not modify the vectors and use the `default`.

■ **Swap i cont**: Swap the first element of the vector with the  $i^{\text{th}}$  element (0-indexed) and keep going with `cont`.

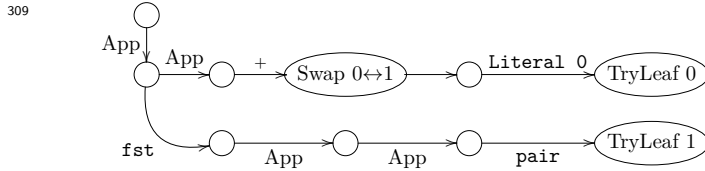
Consider the encoding of two simple example rewrite rules, where we follow Coq’s  $\mathcal{L}_{tac}$  language in prefacing pattern variables with question marks.

$?n + 0 \rightarrow n$   $\text{fst}_{\mathbb{Z},\mathbb{Z}}(?x, ?y) \rightarrow x$

We embed them in an AST type for patterns, which largely follows our ASTs for expressions.

```
0. App (App (Ident +) Wildcard) (Ident (Literal 0))
1. App (Ident fst) (App (App (Ident pair) Wildcard) Wildcard)
```

The decision tree produced is



where every nonswap node implicitly has a “default” case arrow to `Failure` and circles represent `Switch` nodes.

We implement, in Coq’s logic, an evaluator for these trees against terms. Note that we use Coq’s normal partial evaluation to turn our general decision-tree evaluator into a specialized matcher to get reasonable efficiency. Although this partial evaluation of our partial evaluator is subject to the same performance challenges we highlighted in the introduction, it only has to be done once for each set of rewrite rules, and we are targeting cases where the time of per-goal reduction dominates this time of metacompilation.

For our running example of two rules, specializing gives us this match expression.

```
match e with
| App f y => match f with
| Ident fst => match y with
| App (App (Ident pair) x) y => x | _ => e end
| App (Ident +) x => match y with
| Ident (Literal 0) => x | _ => e end | _ => e end | _ => e end.
```

### 3.3 Adding Higher-Order Features

Fast rewriting at the top level of a term is the key ingredient for supporting customized algebraic simplification. However, not only do we want to rewrite throughout the structure of a term, but we also want to integrate with simplification of higher-order terms, in a way where we can prove to Coq that our syntax-simplification function always terminates. Normalization by evaluation (NbE) [4] is an elegant technique for adding the latter aspect, in a way where we avoid needing to implement our own  $\lambda$ -term reducer or prove it terminating.

To orient expectations: we would like to enable the following reduction

$(\lambda f x y. f x y) (+) z 0 \rightsquigarrow z$



$$\begin{array}{ll}
\text{reify}_t : \text{NbE}_t(t) \rightarrow \text{expr}(t) & \text{reduce} : \text{expr}(t) \rightarrow \text{NbE}_t(t) \\
\text{reify}_{t_1 \rightarrow t_2}(f) = \lambda v. \text{reify}_{t_2}(f(\text{reflect}_{t_1}(v))) & \text{reduce}(\lambda v. e) = \lambda x. \text{reduce}([x/v]e) \\
\text{reify}_b(f) = f & \text{reduce}(e_1 \ e_2) = (\text{reduce}(e_1)) (\text{reduce}(e_2)) \\
\text{reflect}_t : \text{expr}(t) \rightarrow \text{NbE}_t(t) & \text{reduce}(x) = x \\
\text{reflect}_{t_1 \rightarrow t_2}(e) = \lambda x. \text{reflect}_{t_2}(e(\text{reify}_{t_1}(x))) & \text{reduce}(c) = \text{reflect}(c) \\
\text{reflect}_b(e) = e & \text{NbE} : \text{expr}(t) \rightarrow \text{expr}(t) \\
& \text{NbE}(e) = \text{reify}(\text{reduce}(e))
\end{array}$$

■ **Figure 1** Implementation of normalization by evaluation

329 using the rewrite rule

$$330 \quad ?n + 0 \rightarrow n$$

332 We begin by reviewing NbE's most classic variant, for performing full  $\beta$ -reduction in a  
 333 simply typed term in a guaranteed-terminating way. Our simply typed  $\lambda$ -calculus syntax is:

$$334 \quad t ::= t \rightarrow t \mid b \qquad e ::= \lambda v. e \mid e \ e \mid v \mid c$$

336 with  $v$  for variables,  $c$  for constants, and  $b$  for base types.

337 We can now define normalization by evaluation. First, we choose a “semantic” represen-  
 338 tation for each syntactic type, which serves as an interpreter's result type.

$$339 \quad \text{NbE}_t(t_1 \rightarrow t_2) = \text{NbE}_t(t_1) \rightarrow \text{NbE}_t(t_2) \qquad \text{NbE}_t(b) = \mathbf{expr}(b)$$

341 Function types are handled as in a simple denotational semantics, while base types receive  
 342 the perhaps-counterintuitive treatment that the result of “executing” one is a syntactic  
 343 expression of the same type. We write  $\mathbf{expr}(b)$  for the metalanguage type of object-language  
 344 syntax trees of type  $b$ , relying on a type family  $\mathbf{expr}$ .

345 Now the core of NbE, shown in Figure 1, is a pair of dual functions  $\text{reify}$  and  $\text{reflect}$ , for  
 346 converting back and forth between syntax and semantics of the object language, defined by  
 347 primitive recursion on type syntax. We split out analysis of term syntax in a separate function  
 348  $\text{reduce}$ , defined by primitive recursion on term syntax, when usually this functionality would  
 349 be mixed in with  $\text{reflect}$ . The reason for this choice will become clear when we extend NbE.

350 We write  $v$  for object-language variables and  $x$  for metalanguage (Coq) variables, and  
 351 we overload  $\lambda$  notation using the metavariable kind to signal whether we are building a  
 352 host  $\lambda$  or a  $\lambda$  syntax tree for the embedded language. The crucial first clause for  $\text{reduce}$   
 353 replaces object-language variable  $v$  with fresh metalanguage variable  $x$ , and then we are  
 354 somehow tracking that all free variables in an argument to  $\text{reduce}$  must have been replaced  
 355 with metalanguage variables by the time we reach them. We reveal in Subsection 4.1 the  
 356 encoding decisions that make all the above legitimate, but first let us see how to integrate  
 357 use of the rewriting operation from the previous section. To fuse NbE with rewriting, we  
 358 only modify the constant case of  $\text{reduce}$ . First, we bind our specialized decision-tree engine  
 359 (which rewrites *at the root of an AST only*) under the name  $\text{rewrite-head}$ .

360 In the constant case, we still reflect the constant, but underneath the binders introduced  
 361 by full  $\eta$ -expansion, we perform one instance of rewriting. In other words, we change this

one function-definition clause:

```
reflectb(e) = rewrite-head(e)
```

It is important to note that a constant of function type will be  $\eta$ -expanded only once for each syntactic occurrence in the starting term, though the expanded function is effectively a thunk, waiting to perform rewriting again each time it is called. From first principles, it is not clear why such a strategy terminates on all possible input terms.

The details so far are essentially the same as in the approach of Aehlig et al. [1]. Recall that their rewriter was implemented in a deeply embedded ML, while ours is implemented in Coq’s logic, which enforces termination of all functions. Aehlig et al. did not prove termination, which indeed does not hold for their rewriter in general, which works with untyped terms, not to mention the possibility of divergent rule-specific ML functions. In contrast, we need to convince Coq up-front that our interleaved  $\lambda$ -term normalization and algebraic simplification always terminate. Additionally, we must prove that rewriting preserves term denotations, which can easily devolve into tedious binder bookkeeping.

The next section introduces the techniques we use to avoid explicit termination proof or binder bookkeeping, in the context of a more general analysis of scaling challenges.

## 4 Scaling Challenges

Aehlig et al. [1] only evaluated their implementation against closed programs. What happens when we try to apply the approach to partial-evaluation problems that should generate thousands of lines of low-level code?

### 4.1 Variable Environments Will Be Large

We should think carefully about representation of ASTs, since many primitive operations on variables will run in the course of a single partial evaluation. For instance, Aehlig et al. [1] reported a significant performance improvement changing variable nodes from using strings to using de Bruijn indices [8]. However, de Bruijn indices and other first-order representations remain painful to work with. We often need to fix up indices in a term being substituted in a new context. Even looking up a variable in an environment tends to incur linear time overhead, thanks to traversal of a list. Perhaps we can do better with some kind of balanced-tree data structure, but there is a fundamental performance gap versus the arrays that can be used in imperative implementations. Unfortunately, it is difficult to integrate arrays soundly in a logic. Also, even ignoring performance overheads, tedious binder bookkeeping complicates proofs.

Our strategy is to use a variable encoding that pushes all first-order bookkeeping off on Coq’s kernel or the implementation of the language we extract to, which are themselves performance-tuned with some crucial pieces of imperative code. Parametric higher-order abstract syntax (PHOAS) [7] is a dependently typed encoding of syntax where binders are managed by the enclosing type system. It allows for relatively easy implementation and proof for NbE, so we adopted it for our framework.

Here is the actual inductive definition of term syntax for our object language, PHOAS-style. The characteristic oddity is that the core syntax type `expr` is parameterized on a dependent type family for representing variables. However, the final representation type `Expr` uses first-class polymorphism over choices of variable type, bootstrapping on the metalanguage’s parametricity to ensure that a syntax tree is agnostic to variable type.

```

Fixpoint nbeT var (t : type) : Type :=
  match t with
  | arrow s d => nbeT var s -> nbeT var d
  | base b    => expr var b
  end.

Fixpoint reify {var t}
  : nbeT var t -> expr var t :=
  match t with
  | arrow s d => λ f, Abs (λ x,
    reify (f (reflect (Var x))))
  | base b    => λ e, e
  end

with reflect {var t} : expr var t -> nbeT var t
:= match t with
| arrow s d => λ e, λ x,
  reflect (App e (reify x))
| base b    => rewrite_head
  end.

Fixpoint reduce {var t} (e : expr (nbeT var) t)
  : nbeT var t := match e with
| Abs e    => λ x, reduce (e (Var x))
| App e1 e2 => (reduce e1) (reduce e2)
| Var x    => x
| Ident c  => reflect (Ident c)
  end.

Definition Rewrite {t} (E : Expr t) : Expr t
:= λ var, reify (reduce (E (nbeT var t))).

```

■ **Figure 2** PHOAS implementation of normalization by evaluation

```

Inductive type := arrow (s d : type) | base (b : base_type).
Infix "→" := arrow.
Inductive expr (var : type -> Type) : type -> Type :=
| Var {t} (v : var t) : expr var t
| Abs {s d} (f : var s -> expr var d) : expr var (s → d)
| App {s d} (f : expr var (s → d)) (x : expr var s) : expr var d
| LetIn {a b} (x : expr var a) (f : var a -> expr var b) : expr var b
| Const {t} (c : const t) : expr var t.
Definition Expr (t : type) : Type := forall var, expr var t.

```

406 A good example of encoding adequacy is assigning a simple denotational semantics. First,  
 407 a simple recursive function assigns meanings to types.

```

Fixpoint denoteT (t : type) : Type := match t with
| arrow s d => denoteT s -> denoteT d
| base b    => denote_base_type b
  end.

```

408 Next we see the convenience of being able to *use* an expression by choosing how it should  
 409 represent variables. Specifically, it is natural to choose *the type-denotation function itself*  
 410 as variable representation. Especially note how this choice makes rigorous last section's  
 411 convention (e.g., in the suspicious function-abstraction clause of `reduce`), where a recursive  
 412 function enforces that values have always been substituted for variables early enough.

```

Fixpoint denoteE {t} (e : expr denoteT t) : denoteT t := match e with
| Var v    => v
| Abs f    => λ x, denoteE (f x)
| App f x  => (denoteE f) (denoteE x)
| LetIn x f => let xv := denoteE x in denoteE f xv
| Ident c  => denoteI c
  end.

Definition DenoteE {t} (E : Expr t) : denoteT t := denoteE (E denoteT).

```

413 It is now easy to follow the same script in making our rewriting-enabled NbE fully formal,  
 414 in Figure 2. Note especially the first clause of `reduce`, where we avoid variable substitution  
 415 precisely because we have chosen to represent variables with normalized semantic values.  
 416 The subtlety there is that base-type semantic values are themselves expression syntax trees,  
 417 which depend on a nested choice of variable representation, which we retain as a parameter  
 418 throughout these recursive functions. The final definition  $\lambda$ -quantifies over that choice.

One subtlety hidden above in implicit arguments is in the final clause of `reduce`, where  
 the two applications of the `Ident` constructor use different variable representations. With

all those details hashed out, we can prove a pleasingly simple correctness theorem, with a lemma for each main definition, with inductive structure mirroring recursive structure of the definition, also appealing to correctness of last section’s pattern-compilation operations. (We now use syntax  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket$  for calls to `DenoteE`.)

$$\forall t, E : \text{Expr} \quad t. \llbracket \text{Rewrite}(E) \rrbracket = \llbracket E \rrbracket$$

419 To understand how we now apply the soundness theorem in a tactic, it is important  
 420 to note how the Coq kernel builds in reduction strategies. These strategies have, to an  
 421 extent, been tuned to work well to show equivalence between a simple denotational-semantics  
 422 application and the semantic value it produces. In contrast, it is rather difficult to code up  
 423 one reduction strategy that works well for all partial-evaluation tasks. Therefore, we should  
 424 restrict ourselves to (1) running full reduction in the style of functional-language interpreters  
 425 and (2) running normal reduction on “known-good” goals like correctness of evaluation of a  
 426 denotational semantics on a concrete input.

427 Operationally, then, we apply our tactic in a goal containing a term  $e$  that we want  
 428 to partially evaluate. In standard proof-by-reflection style, we *reify*  $e$  into some  $E$  where  
 429  $\llbracket E \rrbracket = e$ , replacing  $e$  accordingly, asking Coq’s kernel to validate the equivalence via standard  
 430 reduction. Now we use the **Rewrite** correctness theorem to replace  $\llbracket E \rrbracket$  with  $\llbracket \text{Rewrite}(E) \rrbracket$ .  
 431 Next we ask the Coq kernel to simplify **Rewrite**( $E$ ) by *full reduction via native compilation*.  
 432 Finally, where  $E'$  is the result of that reduction, we simplify  $\llbracket E' \rrbracket$  with standard reduction.

433 We have been discussing representation of bound variables. Also important is representa-  
 434 tion of constants (e.g., library functions mentioned in rewrite rules). They could also be given  
 435 some explicit first-order encoding, but dispatching on, say, strings or numbers for constants  
 436 would be rather inefficient in our generated code. Instead, we chose to have our Coq plugin  
 437 generate a custom inductive type of constant codes, for each rewriter that we ask it to build  
 438 with **Make**. As a result, dispatching on a constant can happen in constant time, based on  
 439 whatever pattern-matching is built into the execution language (either the Coq kernel or the  
 440 target language of extraction). To our knowledge, no past verified reduction tool in a proof  
 441 assistant has employed that optimization.

## 442 4.2 Subterm Sharing Is Crucial

443 For some large-scale partial-evaluation problems, it is important to represent output programs  
 444 with sharing of common subterms. Redundantly inlining shared subterms can lead to  
 445 exponential increase in space requirements. Consider the Fiat Cryptography [9] example  
 446 of generating a 64-bit implementation of field arithmetic for the P-256 elliptic curve. The  
 447 library has been converted manually to continuation-passing style, allowing proper generation  
 448 of **let** binders, whose variables are often mentioned multiple times. We ran that old code  
 449 generator (actually just a subset of its functionality, but optimized by us a bit further, as  
 450 explained in Subsection 5.3) on the P-256 example and found it took about 15 seconds to  
 451 finish. Then we modified reduction to inline **let** binders instead of preserving them, at which  
 452 point the job terminated with an out-of-memory error, on a machine with 64 GB of RAM.

453 We see a tension here between performance and niceness of library implementation. When  
 454 we built the original Fiat Cryptography, we found it necessary to CPS-convert the code  
 455 to coax Coq into adequate reduction performance. Then all of our correctness theorems  
 456 were complicated by reasoning about continuations. In fact, the CPS reasoning was so  
 457 painful that at one point most algorithms in the template library were defined twice, once in  
 458 continuation-passing style and once in direct-style code, because it was easier to prove the  
 459 two equivalent and work with the non-CPS version than to reason about the CPS version

directly. It feels like a slippery slope on the path to implementing a domain-specific compiler, rather than taking advantage of the pleasing simplicity of partial evaluation on natural functional programs. Our reduction engine takes shared-subterm preservation seriously while applying to libraries in direct style.

Our approach is **let**-lifting: we lift **lets** to top level, so that applications of functions to **lets** are available for rewriting. For example, we can perform the rewriting

$$\text{map } (\lambda x. y + x) (\text{let } z := e \text{ in } [0; 1; z + 1]) \rightsquigarrow \text{let } z := e \text{ in } [y; y + 1; y + (z + 1)]$$

using the rules

$$\text{map } ?f [] \rightarrow [] \qquad \text{map } ?f (?x :: ?xs) \rightarrow f x :: \text{map } f xs \qquad ?n + 0 \rightarrow n$$

We define a telescope-style type family called **UnderLets**:

```
Inductive UnderLets {var} (T : Type) := Base (v : T)
| UnderLet {A} (e : @expr var A) (f : var A -> UnderLets T).
```

A value of type **UnderLets T** is a series of **let** binders (where each expression **e** may mention earlier-bound variables) ending in a value of type **T**.

Recall that the NbE type interpretation mapped base types to expression syntax trees. We add flexibility, parameterizing by a Boolean declaring whether to introduce telescopes.

```
Fixpoint nbeT' {var} (with_lets : bool) (t : type) := match t with
| base t => if with_lets then @UnderLets var (@expr var t) else @expr var t
| arrow s d => nbeT' false s -> nbeT' true d end.
Definition nbeT := nbeT' false.      Definition nbeT_with_lets := nbeT' true.
```

There are cases where naive preservation of **let** binders blocks later rewrites from triggering and leads to suboptimal performance, so we include some heuristics. For instance, when the expression being bound is a constant, we always inline. When the expression being bound is a series of list “cons” operations, we introduce a name for each individual list element, since such a list might be traversed multiple times in different ways.

### 4.3 Rules Need Side Conditions

Many useful algebraic simplifications require side conditions. For example, bit-shifting operations are faster than divisions, so we might want a rule such as

$$?n / ?m \rightarrow n \gg \log_2 m \quad \text{if} \quad 2^{\lfloor \log_2 m \rfloor} = m$$

The trouble is how to support predictable solving of side conditions during partial evaluation, where we may be rewriting in open terms. We decided to sidestep this problem by allowing side conditions only as executable Boolean functions, to be applied only to variables that are confirmed as *compile-time constants*, unlike Malecha and Bengtson [16] who support general unification variables. We added a variant of pattern variable that only matches constants. Semantically, this variable style has no additional meaning, and in fact we implement it as a special identity function (notated as an apostrophe) that should be called in the right places within Coq lemma statements. Rather, use of this identity function triggers the right behavior in our tactic code that reifies lemma statements.

Our reification inspects the hypotheses of lemma statements, using type classes to find decidable realizations of the predicates that are used, thereby synthesizing one Boolean expression of our deeply embedded term language, which stands for a decision procedure for the hypotheses. The **Make** command fails if any such expression contains pattern variables not marked as constants.

Hence, we encode the above rule as  $\forall n, m. 2^{\lfloor \log_2('m) \rfloor} = 'm \rightarrow n / 'm = n \gg (\log_2 m)$ .

#### 501 4.4 Side Conditions Need Abstract Interpretation

502 With our limitation that side conditions are decided by executable Boolean procedures, we  
 503 cannot yet handle directly some of the rewrites needed for realistic compilation. For instance,  
 504 Fiat Cryptography reduces high-level functional to low-level code that only uses integer types  
 505 available on the target hardware. The starting library code works with arbitrary-precision  
 506 integers, while the generated low-level code should be careful to avoid unintended integer  
 507 overflow. As a result, the setup may be too naive for our running example rule  $?n + 0 \rightarrow n$ .  
 508 When we get to reducing fixed-precision-integer terms, we must be legalistic:

509  $\text{add\_with\_carry}_{64}(?n, 0) \rightarrow (0, n) \text{ if } 0 \leq n < 2^{64}$   
 510

511 We developed a design pattern to handle this kind of rule.

512 First, we introduce a family of functions  $\text{clip}_{l,u}$ , each of which forces its integer argument  
 513 to respect lower bound  $l$  and upper bound  $u$ . Partial evaluation is proved with respect to  
 514 unknown realizations of these functions, only requiring that  $\text{clip}_{l,u}(n) = n$  when  $l \leq n < u$ .  
 515 Now, before we begin partial evaluation, we can run a verified abstract interpreter to find  
 516 conservative bounds for each program variable. When bounds  $l$  and  $u$  are found for variable  
 517  $x$ , it is sound to replace  $x$  with  $\text{clip}_{l,u}(x)$ . Therefore, at the end of this phase, we assume  
 518 all variable occurrences have been rewritten in this manner to record their proved bounds.

519 Second, we proceed with our example rule refactored:

520  $\text{add\_with\_carry}_{64}(\text{clip}_{?l,?u}(?n), 0) \rightarrow (0, \text{clip}_{l,u}(n)) \text{ if } u < 2^{64}$   
 521

522 If the abstract interpreter did its job, then all lower and upper bounds are constants, and we  
 523 can execute side conditions straightforwardly during pattern matching.

524 See Appendix F for discussion of some further twists in the implementation.

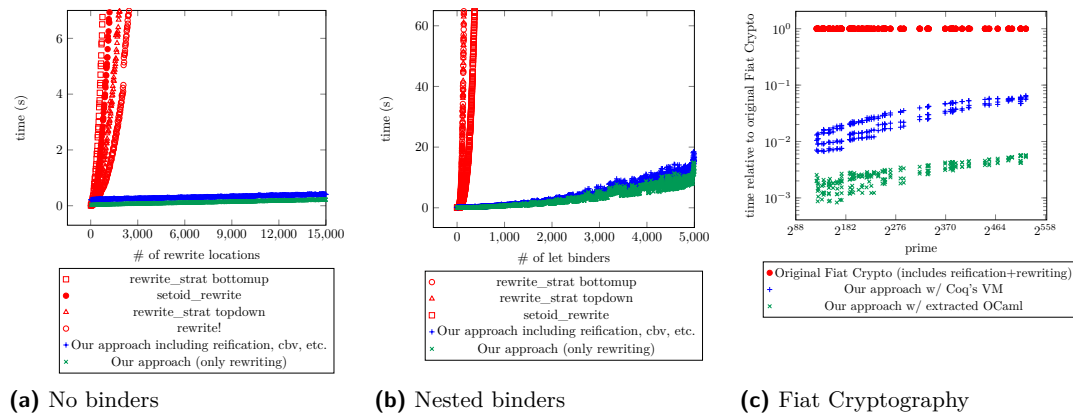
## 525 5 Evaluation

526 Our implementation, available on GitHub at `mit-plv/rewriter@ITP-2022-perf-data` and  
 527 with a roadmap in Appendix G, includes a mix of Coq code for the proved core of rewriting,  
 528 tactic code for setting up proper use of that core, and OCaml plugin code for the manipulations  
 529 beyond the tactic language’s current capabilities. We report here on evidence that the tool is  
 530 effective, first in terms of productivity by users and then in terms of compile-time performance.

### 531 5.1 Iteration on the Fiat Cryptography Compiler

532 We ported Fiat Cryptography’s core compiler functionality to use our framework. The result  
 533 is now used in production by a number of open-source projects. We were glad to retire  
 534 the CPS versions of verified arithmetic functions, which had been present only to support  
 535 predictable reduction with subterm sharing. More importantly, it became easy to experiment  
 536 with new transformations via proving new rewrite theorems, directly in normal Coq syntax,  
 537 including the following, all justified by demand from real users:

- 538 ■ Reassociating arithmetic to minimize the bitwidths of intermediate results
- 539 ■ Multiplication primitives that separately return high halves and low halves
- 540 ■ Strings and a “comment” function of type  $\forall A. \text{string} \rightarrow A \rightarrow A$
- 541 ■ Support for bitwise exclusive-or
- 542 ■ A special marker to block C compilers from introducing conditional jumps in code that  
 543 should be constant-time
- 544 ■ Eliding bitmask-with-constant operations that can be proved as no-ops



■ **Figure 3** Timing of different partial-evaluation implementations

- 545 ■ Rules to introduce conditional moves (on supported platforms)
- 546 ■ New hardware backend, via rules that invoke special instructions of a cryptographic
- 547 accelerator
- 548 ■ New hardware backend, with a requirement that all intermediate integers have the same
- 549 bitwidth, via rules to break wider operations down into several narrower operations

## 550 5.2 Microbenchmarks

551 Now we turn to evaluating performance of generated compilers. We start with microbench-  
 552 marks focusing attention on particular aspects of reduction and rewriting, with Appendix C  
 553 going into more detail, including on a few more benchmarks.

554 Our first example family, *nested binders*, has two integer parameters  $n$  and  $m$ . An  
 555 expression tree is built with  $2^n$  copies of an expression, which is itself a free variable with  $m$   
 556 “useless” additions of zero. We want to see all copies of this expression reduced to just the  
 557 variable. Figure 3a shows the results for  $n = 3$  as we scale  $m$ . The comparison points are  
 558 Coq’s `rewrite!`, `setoid_rewrite`, and `rewrite_strat`. The first two perform one rewrite  
 559 at a time, taking minimal advantage of commonalities across them and thus generating  
 560 quite large, redundant proof terms. The third makes top-down or bottom-up passes with  
 561 combined generation of proof terms. For our own approach, we list both the total time and  
 562 the time taken for core execution of a verified rewrite engine, without counting reification  
 563 (converting goals to ASTs) or its inverse (interpreting results back to normal-looking goals).  
 564 The comparison here is very favorable for our approach so long as  $m > 2$ . (See Appendix B.1  
 565 for more detailed plots.)

566 Now consider what happens when we use `let` binders to share subterms within repeated  
 567 addition of zero, incorporating exponentially many additions with linearly sized terms.  
 568 Figure 3b shows the results. The comparison here is again very favorable for our approach.  
 569 The competing tactics spike upward toward timeouts at just a few hundred generated binders,  
 570 while our engine is only taking about 10 seconds for examples with 5,000 nested binders.

571 Although we have made our comparison against the built-in tactics `setoid_rewrite` and  
 572 `rewrite_strat`, by analyzing the performance in detail, we can argue that these performance  
 573 bottlenecks are likely to hold for any proof assistant designed like Coq. Detailed debugging  
 574 reveals five performance bottlenecks in the existing tactics, discussed in Appendix A.



### 5.3 Macrobenchmark: Fiat Cryptography

Finally, we consider an experiment (described in more detail in Appendix B.2) replicating the generation of performance-competitive finite-field-arithmetic code for all popular elliptic curves by Erbsen et al. [9]. In all cases, we generate essentially the same code as they did, so we only measure performance of the code-generation process. We stage partial evaluation with three different reduction engines (i.e., three `Make` invocations), respectively applying 85, 56, and 44 rewrite rules (with only 2 rules shared across engines), taking total time of about 5 minutes to generate all three engines. These engines support 95 distinct function symbols.

Figure 3c on the previous page graphs running time of three different partial-evaluation and rewriting methods for Fiat Cryptography, as the prime modulus of arithmetic scales up. Times are normalized to the performance of the original method of Erbsen et al. [9], which relied on standard Coq reduction to evaluate code that had been manually written in CPS, followed by reification and a custom ad-hoc simplification and rewriting engine.

As the figure shows, our approach gives about a  $10\times$ – $1000\times$  speed-up over the original Fiat Cryptography pipeline. Inspection of the timing profiles of the original pipeline reveals that reification dominates the timing profile; since partial evaluation is performed by Coq’s kernel, reification must happen *after* partial evaluation, and hence the size of the term being reified grows with the size of the output code. Also recall that the old approach required rewriting Fiat Cryptography’s library of arithmetic functions in continuation-passing style, enduring this complexity in library correctness proofs, while our new approach applies to a direct-style library. Finally, the old approach included a custom reflection-based arithmetic simplifier for term syntax, run after traditional reduction, whereas now we are able to apply a generic engine that combines both, without requiring more than proving traditional rewrites.

The figure also confirms a clear performance advantage of running reduction in code extracted to OCaml, which is possible because our plugin produces verified code in Coq’s functional language. The extracted version is about  $10\times$  faster than running in Coq’s kernel.

## 6 Future Work

By far the biggest next step for our engine is to integrate abstract interpretation with rewriting and partial evaluation. We expect this would net us asymptotic performance gains as described in Appendix D. Additionally, it would allow us to simplify the phrasing of many of our post-abstract-interpretation rewrite rules, by relegating bounds information to side conditions rather than requiring that they appear in the syntactic form of the rule.

There are also a number of natural extensions to our engine. For instance, we do not yet allow pattern variables marked as “constants only” to apply to container datatypes; we limit the mixing of higher-order and polymorphic types, as well as limiting use of first-class polymorphism; we do not support rewriting with equalities of nonfully-applied functions; we only support decidable predicates as rule side conditions, and the predicates may only mention pattern variables restricted to matching constants; we have hardcoded support for a small set of container types and their eliminators; we support rewriting with equality and no other relations; and we require decidable equality for all types mentioned in rules.

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## A Performance Bottlenecks of Proof-Producing Rewriting

Although we have made our performance comparison against the built-in Coq tactics `setoid_rewrite` and `rewrite_strat`, by analyzing the performance in detail, we can argue that these performance bottlenecks are likely to hold for any proof assistant designed like Coq. Detailed debugging reveals five performance bottlenecks in the existing rewriting tactics.

### A.1 Bad performance scaling in sizes of existential-variable contexts

We found that even when there are no occurrences fully matching the rule, `setoid_rewrite` can still be *cubic* in the number of binders (or, more accurately, quadratic in the number of binders with an additional multiplicative linear factor of the number of head-symbol matches). Rewriting without any successful matches takes nearly as much time as `setoid_rewrite` in this microbenchmark; by the time we are looking at goals with 400 binders, the difference is less than 5%.

We posit that this overhead comes from `setoid_rewrite` looking for head-symbol matches and then creating evvars (existential variables) to instantiate the arguments of the lemmas for each head-symbol-match location; hence even if there are no matches of the rule as a whole, there may still be head-symbol matches. Since Coq uses a locally nameless representation [3] for its terms, evvar contexts are necessarily represented as *named* contexts. Representing a substitution between named contexts takes linear space, even when the substitution is trivial, and hence each evvar incurs overhead linear in the number of binders above it. Furthermore, fresh-name generation in Coq is quadratic in the size of the context, and since evvar-context creation uses fresh-name generation, the additional multiplicative factor likely comes from fresh-name generation. (Note, though, that this pattern suggests that the true performance is quartic rather than merely cubic. However, doing a linear regression on a log-log of the data suggests that the performance is genuinely cubic rather than quartic.)

Note that this overhead is inherent to the use of a locally nameless term representation. To fix it, Coq would likely have to represent identity evvar contexts using a compact representation, which is only naturally available for de Bruijn representations. Any rewriting system that uses unification variables with a locally nameless (or named) context will incur at least quadratic overhead on this benchmark.

Note that `rewrite_strat` uses exactly the same rewriting engine as `setoid_rewrite`, just with a different strategy. We found that `setoid_rewrite` and `rewrite_strat` have identical performance when there are no matches and generate identical proof terms when there are matches. Hence we can conclude that the difference in performance between `rewrite_strat` and `setoid_rewrite` is entirely due to an increased number of failed rewrite attempts.

### A.2 Proof-term size

Setting aside the performance bottleneck in constructing the matches in the first place, we can ask the question: how much cost is associated to the proof terms? One way to ask this question in Coq is to see how long it takes to run `Qed`. While `Qed` time is asymptotically better, it is still quadratic in the number of binders. This outcome is unsurprising, because the proof-term size is quadratic in the number of binders. On this microbenchmark, we found that `Qed` time hits one second at about 250 binders, and using the best-fit quadratic line suggests that it would hit 10 seconds at about 800 binders and 100 seconds at about 2500 binders. While this may be reasonable for the microbenchmarks, which only contain as

many rewrite occurrences as there are binders, it would become unwieldy to try to build and typecheck such a proof with a rule for every primitive reduction step, which would be required if we want to avoid manually CPS-converting the code in Fiat Cryptography.

The quadratic factor in the proof term comes because we repeat subterms of the goal linearly in the number of rewrites. For example, if we want to rewrite  $f (f x)$  into  $g (g x)$  by the equation  $\forall x, f x = g x$ , then we will first rewrite  $f x$  into  $g x$ , and then rewrite  $f (g x)$  into  $g (g x)$ . Note that  $g x$  occurs three times (and will continue to occur in every subsequent step).

### A.3 Poor subterm sharing

How easy is it to share subterms and create a linearly sized proof? While it is relatively straightforward to share subterms using `let` binders when the rewrite locations are not under any binders, it is not at all obvious how to share subterms when the terms occur under different binders. Hence any rewriting algorithm that does not find a way to share subterms across different contexts will incur a quadratic factor in proof-building and proof-checking time, and we expect this factor will be significant enough to make applications to projects as large as Fiat Crypto infeasible.

### A.4 Overhead from the `let` typing rule

Suppose we had a proof-producing rewriting algorithm that shared subterms even under binders. Would it be enough? It turns out that even when the proof size is linear in the number of binders, the cost to typecheck it in Coq is still quadratic! The reason is that when checking that  $f : T$  in a context  $x := v$ , to check that `let x := v in f` has type  $T$  (assuming that  $x$  does not occur in  $T$ ), Coq will substitute  $v$  for  $x$  in  $T$ . So if a proof term has  $n$  `let` binders (e.g., used for sharing subterms), Coq will perform  $n$  substitutions on the type of the proof term, even if none of the `let` binders are used. If the number of `let` binders is linear in the size of the type, there is quadratic overhead in proof-checking time, even when the proof-term size is linear.

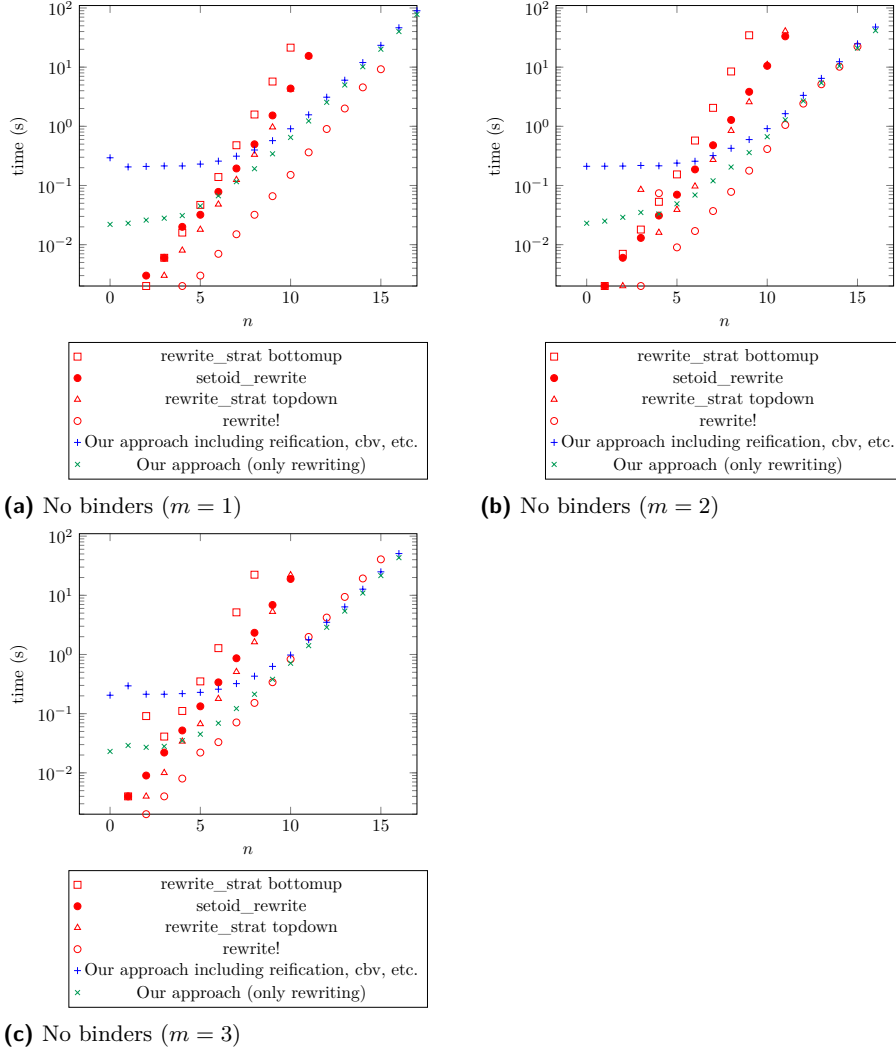
We performed a microbenchmark on a rewriting goal with no binders (because there is an obvious algorithm for sharing subterms in that case) and found that the proof-checking time reached about one second at about 2000 binders and reached 10 seconds at about 7000 binders. While these results might seem good enough for Fiat Cryptography, we expect that there are hundreds of thousands of primitive reduction/rewriting steps even when there are only a few hundred binders in the output term, and we would need `let` binders for each of them. Furthermore, we expect that getting such an algorithm correct would be quite tricky.

Fixing this quadratic bottleneck would, as far as we can tell, require deep changes in how Coq is implemented; it would either require reworking all of Coq to operate on some efficient representation of delayed substitutions paired with unsubstituted terms, or else it would require changing the typing rules of the type theory itself to remove this substitution from the typing rule for `let`. Note that there is a similar issue that crops up for function application and abstraction.

### A.5 Inherent advantages of reflection

Finally, even if this quadratic bottleneck were fixed, Aehlig et al. [1] reported a  $10\times$ – $100\times$  speed-up over the *simp* tactic in Isabelle, which performs all of the intermediate rewriting steps via the kernel API. Their results suggest that even if all of the superlinear bottlenecks

761 were fixed—no small undertaking—rewriting and partial evaluation via reflection might still  
762 be orders of magnitude faster than any proof-term-generating tactic.



**Figure 4** Timing of different partial-evaluation implementations for code with no binders for fixed  $m$ . Note that we have a logarithmic time scale, because term size is proportional to  $2^n$ .

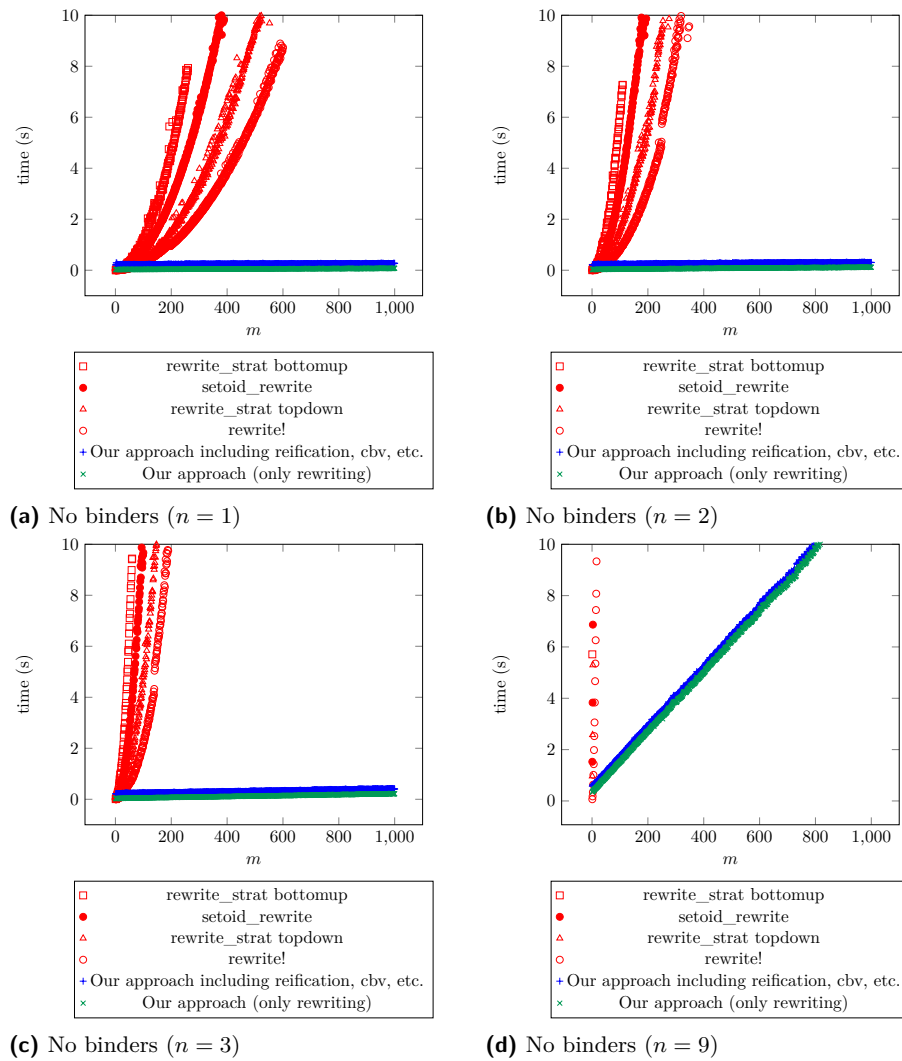
## B Additional Benchmarking Plots

### B.1 Rewriting Without Binders

The code in Figure 7a in Appendix C.1 is parameterized on both  $n$ , the height of the tree, and  $m$ , the number of rewriting occurrences per node. The plot in Figure 3a displays only the case of  $n = 3$ . The plots in Figure 4 display how performance scales as a factor of  $n$  for fixed  $m$ , and the plots in Figure 5 display how performance scales as a factor of  $m$  for fixed  $n$ . Note the logarithmic scaling on the time axis in the plots in Figure 4, as term size is proportional to  $m \cdot 2^n$ .

We can see from these graphs and the ones in Figure 5 that (a) we incur constant overhead over most of the other methods, which dominates on small examples; (b) when the term is quite large and there are few opportunities for rewriting relative to the term size (i.e.,  $m \leq 2$ ), we are worse than `rewrite !Z.add_0_r` but still better than the other methods;





■ **Figure 5** Timing of different partial-evaluation implementations for code with no binders for fixed  $n$  (1, 2, 3, and then we jump to 9)

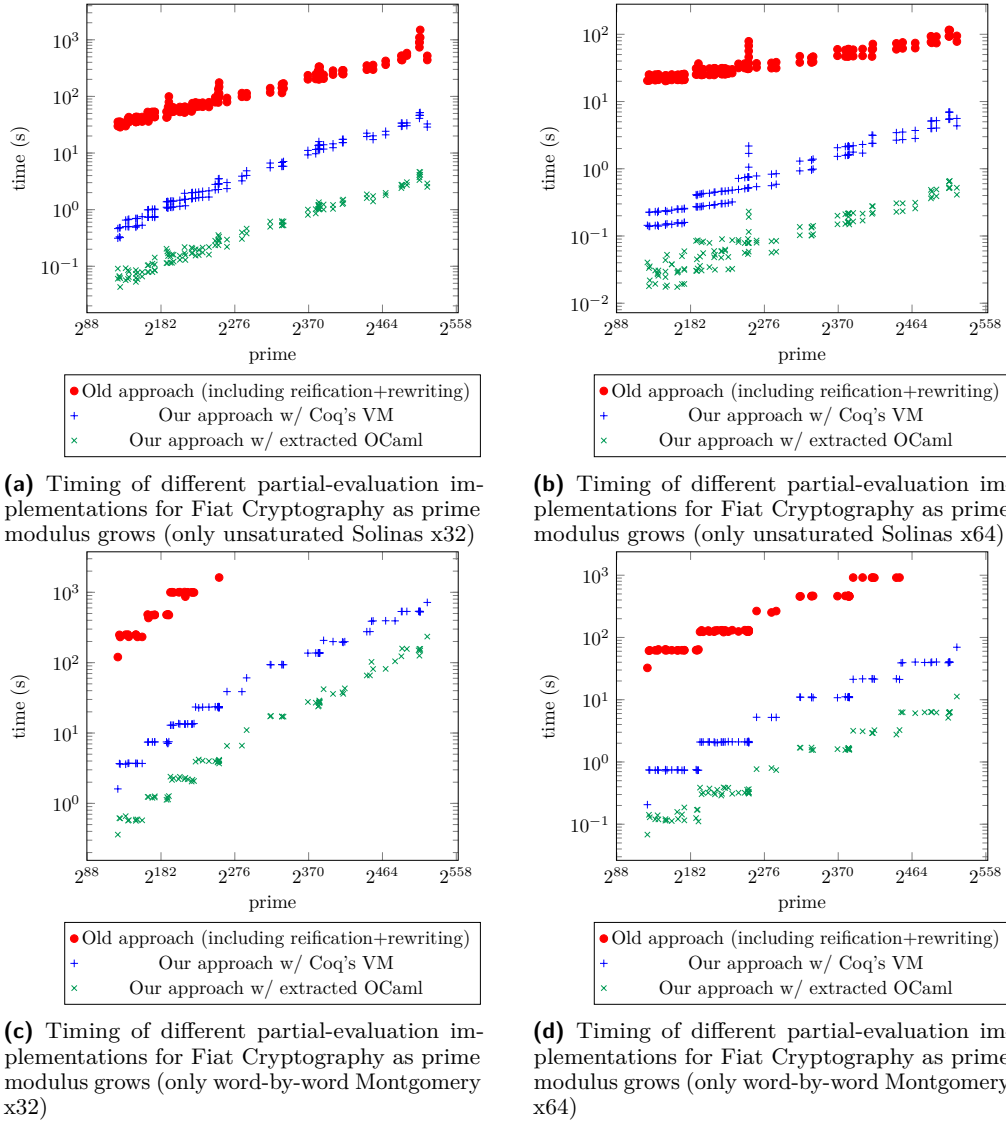
## 23:24 Accelerating Verified-Compiler Development with a Verified Rewriting Engine

775 and (c) when there are many opportunities for rewriting relative to the term size ( $m > 2$ ),  
776 we thoroughly dominate the other methods.

## 777 **B.2 Additional Information on the Fiat Cryptography Benchmark**

778 The data for this benchmark can be found on GitHub at `mit-plv/fiat-crypto@perf-`  
779 `testing-data-ITP-2022-rewriting`.

780 It may also be useful to see performance results with absolute times, rather than normalized  
781 execution ratios vs. the original Fiat Cryptography implementation. Furthermore, the  
782 benchmarks fit into four quite different groupings: elements of the cross product of two  
783 algorithms (unsaturated Solinas and word-by-word Montgomery) and bitwidths of target  
784 architectures (32-bit or 64-bit). Here we provide absolute-time graphs by grouping in Figure 6.



**Figure 6** Timing of different partial-evaluation implementations for Fiat Cryptography vs. prime modulus

$\text{iter}_m(v) = v + \underbrace{0 + 0 + \dots + 0}_m$	$\text{let } v_1 := v_0 + v_0 + 0 \text{ in}$
$\text{tree}_{0,m}(v) = \text{iter}_m(v + v)$	$\vdots$
$\text{tree}_{n+1,m}(v) = \text{iter}_m(\text{tree}_{n,m}(v) + \text{tree}_{n,m}(v))$	$\text{let } v_n := v_{n-1} + v_{n-1} + 0 \text{ in}$
	$v_n + v_n + 0$
(a) Expressions computing initial code for Rewriting Without Binders	(b) Initial code for Rewriting Under Binders

■ **Figure 7** Code for rewriting without and under binders

## 785 C Additional Information on Microbenchmarks

786 We performed all benchmarks on a 3.5 GHz Intel Haswell running Linux and Coq 8.11.1.  
 787 We name the subsections here with the names that show up in the code supplement.

### 788 C.1 Rewriting Without Binders: Plus0Tree

789 Consider the code defined by the expression  $\text{tree}_{n,m}(v)$  in Figure 7a. We want to remove all  
 790 of the  $+0$ s. There are  $\Theta(m \cdot 2^n)$  such rewriting locations. We can start from this expression  
 791 directly, in which case reification alone takes as much time as Coq's `rewrite`. As the  
 792 reification method was not especially optimized, and there exist fast reification methods [10],  
 793 we instead start from a call to a recursive function that generates such an expression.

794 We use two definitions for this microbenchmark:

```

Definition iter (m : nat) (acc v : Z) :=
  @nat_rect (fun _ => Z -> Z)
    (fun acc => acc)
    (fun _ rec acc => rec (acc + v))
    m
    acc.

Definition make_tree (n m : nat) (v acc : Z) :=
  Eval cbv [iter] in
  @nat_rect (fun _ => Z * Z -> Z)
    (fun '(v, acc) => iter m (acc + acc) v)
    (fun _ rec '(v, acc) =>
      iter m (rec (v, acc) + rec (v, acc)) v)
    n
    (v, acc).
```

### 795 C.2 Rewriting Under Binders: UnderLetsPlus0

796 Consider now the code in Figure 7b, which is a version of the code above where redundant  
 797 expressions are shared via `let` bindings.

798 The code used to define this microbenchmark is

```

Definition make_lets_def (n:nat) (v acc : Z) :=
  @nat_rect (fun _ => Z * Z -> Z)
    (fun '(v, acc) => acc + acc + v)
    (fun _ rec '(v, acc) =>
      dlet acc := acc + acc + v in rec (v, acc))
    n
    (v, acc).
```

We note some details of the rewriting framework that were glossed over in the main body of the paper, which are useful for using the code: Although the rewriting framework does not support dependently typed constants, we can automatically preprocess uses of eliminators like `nat_rect` and `list_rect` into nondependent versions. The tactic that does this preprocessing is extensible via  $\mathcal{L}_{tac}$ 's reassignment feature. Since pattern-matching compilation mixed with NbE requires knowing how many arguments a constant can be applied to, we must internally use a version of the recursion principle whose type arguments do not contain arrows; current preprocessing can handle recursion principles with either no arrows or one arrow in the motive. Even though we will eventually plug in 0 for  $v$ , we jump through some extra hoops to ensure that our rewriter cannot cheat by rewriting away the  $+ 0$  before reducing the recursion on  $n$ .

We can reduce this expression in three ways.

### 811 C.2.1 Our Rewriter

812 One lemma is required for rewriting with our rewriter:

**Lemma** `Z.add_0_r` : forall `z`, `z + 0 = z`.

813 Creating the rewriter takes about 12 seconds on the machine we used for running the  
814 performance experiments:

**Make** `myrew` := Rewriter For (`Z.add_0_r`, `eval_rect nat`, `eval_rect prod`).

815 Recall from Section 2 that `eval_rect` is a definition provided by our framework for eagerly  
816 evaluating recursion associated with certain types. It functions by triggering typeclass  
817 resolution for the lemmas reducing the recursion principle associated to the given type. We  
818 provide instances for `nat`, `prod`, `list`, `option`, and `bool`. Users may add more instances if  
819 they desire.

### 820 C.2.2 setoid\_rewrite and rewrite\_strat

821 To give as many advantages as we can to the preexisting work on rewriting, we pre-reduce the  
822 recursion on `nats` using `cbv` before performing `setoid_rewrite`. (Note that `setoid_rewrite`  
823 cannot itself perform reduction without generating large proof terms, and `rewrite_strat` is  
824 not currently capable of sequencing reduction with rewriting internally due to bugs such as  
825 `#10923`.) Rewriting itself is easy; we may use any of `repeat setoid_rewrite Z.add_0_r`,  
826 `rewrite_strat topdown Z.add_0_r`, or `rewrite_strat bottomup Z.add_0_r`.

### 827 C.3 Binders and Recursive Functions: LiftLetsMap

828 The next experiment uses the code in Figure 8. Note that the `let ... in ...` binding  
829 blocks further reduction of `map_dbl` when we iterate it  $m$  times in `make`, and so we need to  
830 take care to preserve sharing when reducing here.

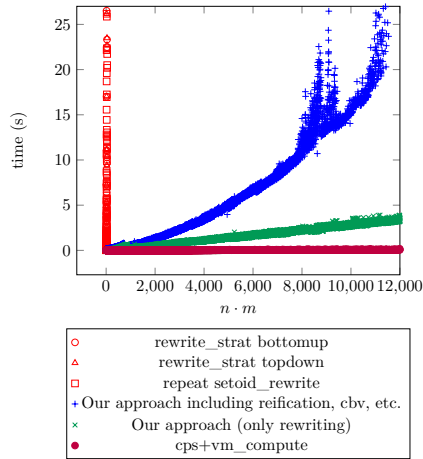
831 Figure 9 compares performance between our approach, `repeat setoid_rewrite`, and  
832 two variants of `rewrite_strat`. Additionally, we consider another option, which was adopted  
833 by Fiat Cryptography at a larger scale: rewrite our functions to improve reduction behavior.  
834 Specifically, both functions are rewritten in continuation-passing style, which makes them  
835 harder to read and reason about but allows standard VM-based reduction to achieve good  
836 performance. The figure shows that `rewrite_strat` variants are essentially unusable for  
837 this example, with `setoid_rewrite` performing only marginally better, while our approach

$$\text{map\_dbl}(\ell) = \begin{cases} [] & \text{if } \ell = [] \\ \text{let } y := h + h \text{ in } y :: \text{map\_dbl}(t) & \text{if } \ell = h :: t \end{cases}$$

$$\text{make}(n, m, v) = \begin{cases} [v, \dots, v]_n & \text{if } m = 0 \\ \text{map\_dbl}(\text{make}(n, m - 1, v)) & \text{if } m > 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{example}_{n,m} = \forall v, \text{make}(n, m, v) = []$$

■ **Figure 8** Initial code for binders and recursive functions



■ **Figure 9** Benchmark with recursive functions



applied to the original, more readable definitions loses ground steadily to VM-based reduction on CPS'd code. On the largest terms ( $n \cdot m > 20,000$ ), the gap is 6s vs. 0.1s of compilation time, which should often be acceptable in return for simplified coding and proofs, plus the ability to mix proved rewrite rules with built-in reductions. Note that about 99% of the difference between the full time of our method and just the rewriting is spent in the final **cbv** at the end, used to denote our output term from reified syntax. We blame this performance on the unfortunate fact that reduction in Coq is quadratic in the number of nested binders present; see Coq bug #11151. This bug has since been fixed, as of Coq 8.14; see Coq PR #13537.

We can perform this rewriting in four ways.

### C.3.1 Our Rewriter

One lemma is required for rewriting with our rewriter:

```
Lemma eval_repeat A x n
: @List.repeat A x ('n) = ident.eagerly nat_rect _ [] (λ k repeat_k, x :: repeat_k) ('n).
```

Recall that the apostrophe marker (') is explained in Subsection 4.3. Recall again from Section 2 that we use **ident.eagerly** to ask the reducer to simplify a case of primitive recursion by complete traversal of the designated argument's constructor tree. Our current version only allows a limited, hard-coded set of eliminators with **ident.eagerly** (**nat\_rect** on return types with either zero or one arrows, **list\_rect** on return types with either zero or one arrows, and **List.nth\_default**), but nothing in principle prevents automatic generation of the necessary code.

We construct our rewriter with

```
Make myrew := Rewriter For (eval_repeat, eval_rect list, eval_rect nat)
(with extra_idents (Z.add)).
```

On the machine we used for running all our performance experiments, this command takes about 13 seconds to run. Note that all identifiers which appear in any goal to be rewritten must either appear in the type of one of the rewrite rules or in the tuple passed to **with extra\_idents**.

Rewriting is relatively simple, now. Simply invoke the tactic **Rewrite\_for myrew**. We support rewriting on only the left-hand-side and on only the right-hand-side using either the tactic **Rewrite\_lhs\_for myrew** or else the tactic **Rewrite\_rhs\_for myrew**, respectively.

### C.3.2 rewrite\_strat

To reduce adequately using **rewrite\_strat**, we need the following two lemmas:

```
Lemma lift_let_list_rect T A P N C (v : A) fls
: @list_rect T P N C (Let_In v fls) = Let_In v (fun v => @list_rect T P N C (fls v)).
Lemma lift_let_cons T A x (v : A) f
: @cons T x (Let_In v f) = Let_In v (fun v => @cons T x (f v)).
```

Note that **Let\_In** is the constant we use for writing **let ... in ...** expressions that do not reduce under  $\zeta$ . Throughout most of this paper, anywhere that **let ... in ...** appears, we have actually used **Let\_In** in the code. It would alternatively be possible to extend the reification preprocessor to automatically convert **let ... in ...** to **Let\_In**, but this may cause problems when converting the interpretation of the reified term with the prereified term, as Coq's conversion does not allow fine-tuning of when to inline or unfold **lets**.

873 To rewrite, we start with `cbv [example make map_dbl]` to expose the underlying term  
 874 to rewriting. One would hope that one could just add these two hints to a database `db`  
 875 and then write `rewrite_strat (repeat (eval cbn [list_rect]; try bottomup hints`  
 876 `db))`, but unfortunately this does not work due to a number of bugs in Coq: #10934, #10923,  
 877 #4175, #10955, and the potential to hit #10972. Instead, we must put the two lemmas in sepa-  
 878 rate databases, and then write `repeat (cbn [list_rect]; (rewrite_strat (try repeat`  
 879 `bottomup hints db1)); (rewrite_strat (try repeat bottomup hints db2)))`. Note  
 880 that the rewriting with `lift_let_cons` can be done either top-down or bottom-up, but  
 881 `rewrite_strat` breaks if the rewriting with `lift_let_list_rect` is done top-down.

### 882 C.3.3 CPS and the VM

883 If we want to use Coq's built-in VM reduction without our rewriter, to achieve the prior  
 884 state-of-the-art performance, we can do so on this example, because it only involves partial  
 885 reduction and not equational rewriting. However, we must (a) module-opacify the constants  
 886 which are not to be unfolded, and (b) rewrite all of our code in CPS.

887 Then we are looking at

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{map\_dbl\_cps}(\ell, k) &= \begin{cases} k([]) & \text{if } \ell = [] \\ \text{let } y := h +_{\text{ax}} h \text{ in } & \text{if } \ell = h :: t \\ \text{map\_dbl\_cps}(t, & \\ (\lambda ys, k(y :: ys))) & \end{cases} \\
 \text{make\_cps}(n, m, v, k) &= \begin{cases} k(\underbrace{[v, \dots, v]}_n) & \text{if } m = 0 \\ \text{make\_cps}(n, m - 1, v, & \text{if } m > 0 \\ (\lambda \ell, \text{map\_dbl\_cps}(\ell, k)) & \end{cases} \\
 \text{example\_cps}_{n,m} &= \forall v, \text{ make\_cps}(n, m, v, \lambda x. x) = []
 \end{aligned}$$

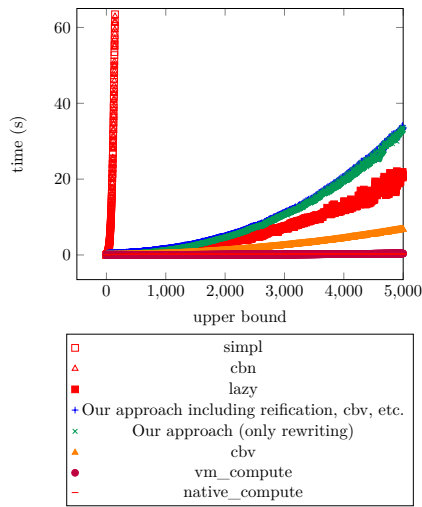
890  
 891  
 892 Then we can just run `vm_compute`. Note that this strategy, while quite fast, results in  
 893 a stack overflow when  $n \cdot m$  is larger than approximately  $2.5 \cdot 10^4$ . This is unsurprising,  
 894 as we are generating quite large terms. Our framework can handle terms of this size but  
 895 stack-overflows on only slightly larger terms.

### 896 C.3.4 Takeaway

897 From this example, we conclude that `rewrite_strat` is unsuitable for computations involving  
 898 large terms with many binders, especially in cases where reduction and rewriting need to  
 899 be interwoven, and that the many bugs in `rewrite_strat` result in confusing gymnastics  
 900 required for success. The prior state of the art—writing code in CPS—suitably tweaked  
 901 by using module opacity to allow `vm_compute`, remains the best performer here, though  
 902 the cost of rewriting everything is CPS may be prohibitive. Our method soundly beats  
 903 `rewrite_strat`. We are additionally bottlenecked on `cbv`, which is used to unfold the goal  
 904 post-rewriting and costs about a minute on the largest of terms; see Coq bug #11151 for a  
 905 discussion on what is wrong with Coq's reduction here.

## 906 C.4 SieveOfEratosthenes

907 The final experiment involves full reduction in computing the Sieve of Eratosthenes, taking  
 908 inspiration on benchmark choice from Aehlig et al. [1]. We find in Figure 10 that we are



■ **Figure 10** Full evaluation, Sieve of Eratosthenes

909 slower than `vm_compute`, `native_compute`, and `cbv`, but faster than `lazy`, and of course  
 910 much faster than `simpl` and `cbn`, which are quite slow.

911 We define the sieve using `PositiveMap.t` and list `Z`:

```

Definition sieve' (fuel : nat) (max : Z) :=
  List.rev
    (fst
      (@nat_rect
        (λ _, list Z (* primes *) *
          PositiveSet.t (* composites *) *
          positive (* np (next_prime) *) ->
          list Z (* primes *) *
          PositiveSet.t (* composites *)
        ) (λ '(primes, composites, next_prime),
          (primes, composites))
        ) (λ _ rec '(primes, composites, np),
          rec
            (if (PositiveSet.mem np composites ||
              (Z.pos np >? max))%bool%Z
            then
              (primes, composites, Pos.succ np)
            else
              (Z.pos np :: primes,
                List.fold_right
                  PositiveSet.add
                    composites
                    (List.map
                      (λ n, Pos.mul (Pos.of_nat (S n)) np)
                      (List.seq 0 (Z.to_nat(max/Z.pos np)))),
                  Pos.succ np)))
          fuel
          (nil, PositiveSet.empty, 2%positive))).

Definition sieve (n : Z)
  := Eval cbv [sieve'] in sieve' (Z.to_nat n).
```

912 We need four lemmas and an additional instance to create the rewriter:

```
Lemma eval_fold_right A B f x ls :
@List.fold_right A B f x ls
= ident.eagerly list_rect _ _
  x
  (λ l ls fold_right_ls, f l fold_right_ls)
  ls.
```

```
Lemma eval_app A xs ys :
xs ++ ys
= ident.eagerly list_rect A _
  ys
  (λ x xs app_xs_ys, x :: app_xs_ys)
  xs.
```

```
Lemma eval_map A B f ls :
@List.map A B f ls
= ident.eagerly list_rect _ _
  []
  (λ l ls map_ls, f l :: map_ls)
  ls.
```

```
Lemma eval_rev A xs :
@List.rev A xs
= (@list_rect _ (fun _ => _))
  []
  (λ x xs rev_xs, rev_xs ++ [x])%list
  xs.
```

Scheme Equality for PositiveSet.tree.

```
Definition PositiveSet_t_beq
: PositiveSet.t -> PositiveSet.t -> bool
:= tree_beq.
```

```
Global Instance PositiveSet_reflect_eqb
: reflect_rel (@eq PositiveSet.t) PositiveSet_t_beq
:= reflect_of_brel
  internal_tree_dec_bl internal_tree_dec_lb.
```

913 We then create the rewriter with

```
Make myrew := Rewriter For
  (eval_rect nat, eval_rect prod, eval_fold_right,
   eval_map, do_again eval_rev, eval_rect bool,
   @fst_pair, eval_rect list, eval_app)
  (with extra idents (Z.eqb, orb, Z.gtb,
    PositiveSet.elements, @fst, @snd,
    PositiveSet.mem, Pos.succ, PositiveSet.add,
    List.fold_right, List.map, List.seq, Pos.mul,
    S, Pos.of_nat, Z.to_nat, Z.div, Z.pos, 0,
    PositiveSet.empty))
  (with delta).
```

914 To get **cbn** and **simpl** to unfold our term fully, we emit

```
Global Arguments Pos.to_nat !_ / .
```

## 915 **D** Fusing Compiler Passes

916 When we moved the constant-folding rules from before abstract interpretation to after it,  
 917 the performance of our compiler on Word-by-Word Montgomery code synthesis decreased  
 918 significantly. (The generated code did not change.) We discovered that the number of variable  
 919 assignments in our intermediate code was quartic in the number of bits in the prime, while  
 920 the number of variable assignments in the generated code is only quadratic. The performance  
 921 numbers we measured supported this theory: the overall running time of synthesizing code  
 922 for a prime near  $2^k$  jumped from  $\Theta(k^2)$  to  $\Theta(k^4)$  when we made this change. We believe  
 923 that fusing abstract interpretation with rewriting and partial evaluation would allow us to  
 924 fix this asymptotic-complexity issue.

925 To make this situation more concrete, consider the following example: Fiat Cryptography  
 926 uses abstract interpretation to perform bounds analysis; each expression is associated with  
 927 a range that describes the lower and upper bounds of values that expression might take  
 928 on. Abstract interpretation on addition works as follows: if we have that  $x_\ell \leq x \leq x_u$  and  
 929  $y_\ell \leq y \leq y_u$ , then we have that  $x_\ell + y_\ell \leq x + y \leq x_u + y_u$ . Performing bounds analysis  
 930 on  $+$  requires two additions. We might have an arithmetic simplification that says that  
 931  $x + y = x$  whenever we know that  $0 \leq y \leq 0$ . If we perform the abstract interpretation and  
 932 then the arithmetic simplification, we perform two additions (for the bounds analysis) and  
 933 then two comparisons (to test the lower and upper bounds of  $y$  for equality with 0). We  
 934 cannot perform the arithmetic simplification before abstract interpretation, because we will  
 935 not know the bounds of  $y$ . However, if we perform the arithmetic simplification for each  
 936 expression after performing bounds analysis on its *subexpressions* and only after this perform  
 937 abstract interpretation on the resulting expression, then we need not use any additions to  
 938 compute the bounds of  $x + y$  when  $0 \leq y \leq 0$ , since the expression will just become  $x$ .

939 Another essential pass to fuse with rewriting and partial evaluation is let-lifting. Unless  
 940 all of the code is CPS-converted ahead of time, attempting to do let-lifting via rewriting,  
 941 as must be done when using `setoid_rewrite`, `rewrite_strat`, or  $\mathcal{R}_{tac}$ , results in slower  
 942 asymptotics. This pattern is already apparent in the `LiftLetsMap` / “Binders and Recursive  
 943 Functions” example in Appendix C.3. We achieve linear performance in  $n \cdot m$  when ignoring  
 944 the final `cbv`, while `setoid_rewrite` and `rewrite_strat` are both cubic. The rewriter in  
 945  $\mathcal{R}_{tac}$  cannot possibly achieve better than  $\mathcal{O}(n \cdot m^2)$  unless it can be sublinear in the number  
 946 of rewrites, because our rewriter gets away with a constant number of rewrites (four), plus  
 947 evaluating recursion principles for a total amount of work  $\mathcal{O}(n \cdot m)$ . But without primitive  
 948 support for let-lifting, it is instead necessary to lift the lets by rewrite rules, which requires  
 949  $\mathcal{O}(n \cdot m^2)$  rewrites just to lift the lets. The analysis is thus: running `make` simply gives us  
 950  $m$  nested applications of `map_dbl` to a length- $n$  list. To reduce a given call to `map_dbl`, all  
 951 existing let-binders must first be lifted (there are  $n \cdot k$  of them on the  $k$ -innermost-call) across  
 952 `map_dbl`, one-at-a-time. Then the `map_dbl` adds another  $n$  let binders, so we end up doing  
 953  $\sum_{k=0}^m n \cdot k$  lifts, i.e.,  $n \cdot m(m+1)/2$  rewrites just to lift the lets.

## 954 **E** Experience vs. Lean and `setoid_rewrite`

955 Although all of our toy examples work with `setoid_rewrite` or `rewrite_strat` (until the  
 956 terms get too big), even the smallest of examples in Fiat Cryptography fell over using these  
 957 tactics. When attempting to use `setoid_rewrite` for partial evaluation and rewriting on  
 958 unsaturated Solinas with 1 limb on small primes (such as  $2^{61} - 1$ ), we were able to get  
 959 `setoid_rewrite` to finish after about 100 seconds. Trying to synthesize code for two limbs

on slightly larger primes (such as  $2^{107} - 1$ , which needs two limbs on a 64-bit machine) took about 10 minutes; three limbs took just under 3.5 hours, and four limbs failed to synthesize with an out-of-memory error after using over 60 GB of RAM. The widely used primes tend to have around five to ten limbs. See #13576 for more details and for updates.

The `rewrite_strat` tactic, which does not require duplicating the entire goal at each rewriting step, fared a bit better. Small primes with 1 limb took about 90 seconds, but further performance tuning of the typeclass instances dropped this time down to 11 seconds. The bugs in `rewrite_strat` made finding the right magic invocation quite painful, nonetheless; the invocation we settled on involved *sixteen* consecutive calls to `rewrite_strat` with varying arguments and strategies. Two limbs took about 90 seconds, three limbs took a bit under 10 minutes, and four limbs took about 70 minutes and about 17 GB of RAM. Extrapolating out the exponential asymptotics of the fastest-growing subcall to `rewrite_strat` indicates that 5 limbs would take 11–12 hours, 6 limbs would take 10–11 days, 7 limbs would take 31–32 weeks, 8 limbs would take 13–14 years, 9 limbs would take 2–3 centuries, 10 limbs would take 6–7 millennia, and 15 limbs would take 2–3 times the age of the universe, and 17 limbs, the largest example we might find at present in the real world, would take over  $1000\times$  the age of the universe! See #13708 for more details and updates.

This experiment using `rewrite_strat` can be found online in the Coq source file at `src/fiat_crypto_via_setoid_rewrite_standalone.v` on GitHub at `coq-community/coq-performance-tests`. To test with the two-limb prime  $2^{107} - 1$ , change `Goal goal` to `Goal goal_of_size 2%nat` near the bottom of the file.

We also tried Lean, in the hopes that rewriting in Lean, specifically optimized for performance, would be up to the challenge. Although Lean performed about 30% better than Coq’s `setoid_rewrite` on the 1-limb example, taking a bit under a minute, it did not complete on the two-limb example even after four hours (after which we stopped trying), and a five-limb example was still going after 40 hours.

Our experiments with running `rewrite` in Lean on the Fiat Cryptography code can be found in the file `fiat-crypto-lean/src/fiat_crypto.lean` on GitHub at `mit-plv/fiat-crypto@lean`. We used Lean version 3.4.2, commit `cbd2b6686ddb`, Release. Run `make` in `fiat-crypto-lean` to run the one-limb example; change `open ex` to `open ex2` to try the two-limb example, or to `open ex5` to try the five-limb example.

## F Limitations and Preprocessing

We now note some details of the rewriting framework that were previously glossed over, which are useful for using the code or implementing something similar, but which do not add fundamental capabilities to the approach. Although the rewriting framework does not support dependently typed constants, we can automatically preprocess uses of eliminators like `nat_rect` and `list_rect` into nondependent versions. The tactic that does this preprocessing is extensible via  $\mathcal{L}_{tac}$ ’s reassignment feature. Since pattern-matching compilation mixed with NbE requires knowing how many arguments a constant can be applied to, internally we must use a version of the recursion principle whose type arguments do not contain arrows; current preprocessing can handle recursion principles with either no arrows or one arrow in motives.

Recall from Section 2 that `eval_rect` is a definition provided by our framework for eagerly evaluating recursion associated with certain types. It functions by triggering typeclass resolution for the lemmas reducing the recursion principle associated to the given type. We provide instances for `nat`, `prod`, `list`, `option`, and `bool`. Users may add more instances if they desire.

Recall again from Section 2 that we use `ident.eagerly` to ask the reducer to simplify a case of primitive recursion by complete traversal of the designated argument's constructor tree. Our current version only allows a limited, hard-coded set of eliminators with `ident.eagerly` (`nat_rect` on return types with either zero or one arrows, `list_rect` on return types with either zero or one arrows, and `List.nth_default`), but nothing in principle prevents automatic generation of the necessary code.

We define a constant `Let_In` which we use for writing `let ... in ...` expressions that do not reduce under  $\zeta$  (Coq's reduction rule for `let`-inlining). Throughout most of this paper, anywhere that `let ... in ...` appears, we have actually used `Let_In` in the code. It would alternatively be possible to extend the reification preprocessor to automatically convert `let ... in ...` to `Let_In`, but this strategy may cause problems when converting the interpretation of the reified term with the prereified term, as Coq's conversion does not allow fine-tuning of when to inline or unfold `lets`.

## G Reading the Code Supplement

We have attached both the code for implementing the rewriter, as well as a copy of Fiat Cryptography adapted to use the rewriting framework. Both code supplements build with Coq versions 8.9–8.13, and they require that whichever OCaml was used to build Coq be installed on the system to permit building plugins. (If Coq was installed via `opam`, then the correct version of OCaml will automatically be available.) Both code bases can be built by running `make` in the top-level directory.

The performance data for both repositories are included at the top level as `.txt` and `.csv` files.

The performance data for the microbenchmarks can be rebuilt using `make perf-SuperFast perf-Fast perf-Medium` followed by `make perf-csv` to get the `.txt` and `.csv` files. The microbenchmarks should run in about 24 hours when run with `-j5` on a 3.5 GHz machine. There also exist targets `perf-Slow` and `perf-VerySlow`, but these take significantly longer.

The performance data for the macrobenchmark can be rebuilt from the Fiat Cryptography copy included by running `make perf -k`. We ran this with `PERF_MAX_TIME=3600` to allow each benchmark to run for up to an hour; the default is 10 minutes per benchmark. Expect the benchmarks to take over a week of time with an hour timeout and five cores. Some tests are expected to fail, making `-k` a necessary flag. Again, the `perf-csv` target will aggregate the logs and turn them into `.txt` and `.csv` files.

The entry point for the rewriter is the Coq source file `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Util/plugins/RewriterBuild.v`.

The rewrite rules used in Fiat Cryptography are defined in `fiat-crypto/src/Rewriter/Rules.v` and proven in `fiat-crypto/src/Rewriter/RulesProofs.v`. Note that the Fiat Cryptography copy uses `COQPATH` for dependency management, and `.dir-locals.el` to set `COQPATH` in `emacs/PG`; you must accept the setting when opening a file in the directory for interactive compilation to work. Thus interactive editing either requires `ProofGeneral` or manual setting of `COQPATH`. The correct value of `COQPATH` can be found by running `make printenv`.

We will now go through this paper and describe where to find each reference in the code base.



## G.1 Code from Section 1, Introduction

The P-384 curve is mentioned. This is the curve with modulus  $2^{384} - 2^{128} - 2^{96} + 2^{32} - 1$ ; its benchmarks can be found in files matching the glob `fiat-crypto/src/Rewriter/PerfTesting/Specific/generated/p2384m2128m296p232m1__*__word_by_word_montgomery_*`. The output `.log` files are included in the tarball; the `.v` and `.sh` files are automatically generated in the course of running `make perf -k`.

### G.1.1 Code from Subsection 1.1, Related Work

There is no code mentioned in this section.

### G.1.2 Code from Subsection 1.2, Our Solution

We claimed that our solution meets five criteria. We briefly justify each criterion with a sentence or a pointer to code:

- We claimed that we **did not grow the trusted code base**. In any example file (of which a couple can be found in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/Examples/`), the `Make` command creates a rewriter package. Running `Print Assumptions` on this new constant (often named `rewriter` or `myrew`) should demonstrate a lack of axioms. `Print Assumptions` may also be run on the proof that results from using the rewriter.
- We claimed **fast** partial evaluation with reasonable memory use; we assume that the performance graphs stand on their own to support this claim. Note that memory usage can be observed by making the benchmarks while passing `TIMED=1` to `make`.
- We claimed to allow reduction that *mixes rules of the definitional equality with equalities proven explicitly as theorems*; the “rules of the definitional equality” are, for example,  $\beta$  reduction, and we assert that it should be self-evident that our rewriter supports this.
- We claimed to allow **rapid iteration** on rewrite rules with *minimal verification overhead*. We invite the reader to alter the list of constants in any of the `Make ... := Rewriter For ...` invocations in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/Examples/` or to alter the list of rewrite rules in `fiat-crypto/src/Rewriter/Rules.v` to experience iteration on rewrite rules.
- We claimed common-subterm **sharing preservation**. This is implemented by supporting the use of the `dlet` notation which is defined in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Util/LetIn.v` via the `Let_In` constant. We will come back to the infrastructure that supports this.
- We claimed **extraction of standalone partial evaluators**. The extraction is performed in the files `perf_unsaturated_solinas.v` and `perf_word_by_word_montgomery.v`, and the files `saturated_solinas.v`, `unsaturated_solinas.v`, and `word_by_word_montgomery.v`, all in the directory `fiat-crypto/src/ExtractionOCaml/`. The OCaml code can be extracted and built using the target `make standalone-ocaml` (or `make perf-standalone` for the `perf_` binaries). There may be some issues with building these binaries on Windows as some versions of `ocaml-opt` on Windows seem not to support outputting binaries without the `.exe` extension.

We mention encoding pattern matching explicitly by adopting the performance-tuned approach of Maranget [17]; the code for this is in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/Rewriter.v` starting from the comment above `Inductive decision_tree` and including the Gallina definitions `eval_decision_tree` and `compile_rewrites`.

We mention integration with abstract interpretation; the abstract-interpretation pass is implemented in `fiat-crypto/src/AbstractInterpretation/`; integration is achieved in

1093 rewrite rules in `fiat-crypto/src/Rewriter/Rules.v` making use of the various `Local Notations`  
 1094 defined in that file for `ident.cast`.

1095 We mention parametric higher-order abstract syntax (PHOAS); the definition of our  
 1096 datatype is `Inductive expr` in module `Compilers.expr` in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Language/`  
 1097 `Language.v`. We mention a let-lifting transformation threaded throughout reduction; this  
 1098 is `Inductive UnderLets`, a monad defined in module `Compilers.UnderLets` in the file  
 1099 `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Language/UnderLets.v`.

## 1100 G.2 Code from Section 2, A Motivating Example

1101 The `prefixSums` example appears in the Coq source file `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/`  
 1102 `Examples/PrefixSums.v`. Note that we use `dlet` rather than `let` in binding `acc'` so that  
 1103 we can preserve the `let` binder even under  $\iota$  reduction, which much of Coq's infrastructure  
 1104 performs eagerly. Because we do not depend on the axiom of functional extensionality, we  
 1105 also in practice require `Proper` instances for each higher-order identifier saying that each  
 1106 constant respects function extensionality. Although we glossed over this detail in the body  
 1107 of this paper, we also prove

```
Global Instance: forall A B,
  Proper ((eq ==> eq ==> eq) ==> eq ==> eq ==> eq)
    (@fold_left A B).
```

1108 The `Make` command is exposed in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Util/plugins/RewriterBuild.v`  
 1109 and defined in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Util/plugins/rewriter_build_plugin.mlg`. Note  
 1110 that one must run `make` to create this latter file; it is copied over from a version-specific file  
 1111 at the beginning of the build.

1112 The `do_again`, `eval_rect`, and `ident.eagerly` constants are defined at the bottom of  
 1113 module `RewriteRuleNotations` in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Language/Pre.v`.

## 1114 G.3 Code from Section 3, The Structure of a Rewriter

### 1115 G.3.1 Code from Subsection 3.1, Our Approach in Ten Steps

1116 We match the nine steps with functions from the source code:

- 1117 1. The given lemma statements are scraped for which named functions and types the  
 1118 rewriter package will support. This is performed by `rewriter_scrape_data` in the file  
 1119 `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Util/plugins/rewriter_build.ml` which invokes the  $\mathcal{L}_{tac}$   
 1120 tactic named `make_scrape_data` in a submodule in the source file `rewriter/src/`  
 1121 `Rewriter/Language/IdentifiersBasicGenerate.v` on a goal headed by the constant we  
 1122 provide under the name `Pre.ScrapedData.t_with_args` in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/`  
 1123 `Language/PreCommon.v`.
- 1124 2. Inductive types enumerating all available primitive types and functions are emitted.  
 1125 This step is performed by `rewriter_emit_inductives` in file `rewriter/src/Rewriter/`  
 1126 `Util/plugins/rewriter_build.ml` invoking tactics, like `make_base_elim` in `rewriter/`  
 1127 `src/Rewriter/Language/IdentifiersBasicGenerate.v`, on goals headed by constants  
 1128 from `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Language/IdentifiersBasicLibrary.v`, including the  
 1129 constant `base_elim_with_args` for example, to turn scraped data into eliminators for the  
 1130 inductives. The actual emitting of inductives is performed by code in the file `rewriter/`  
 1131 `src/Rewriter/Util/plugins/inductive_from_elim.ml`.
- 1132 3. Tactics generate all of the necessary definitions and prove all of the necessary lemmas for  
 1133 dealing with this particular set of inductive codes. This step is performed by the tactic

1134 `make_rewriter_of_scraped_and_ind` in the source file `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Util/`  
 1135 `plugins/rewriter_build.ml` which invokes the tactic `make_rewriter_all` defined in  
 1136 the file `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/AllTactics.v` on a goal headed by the pro-  
 1137 vided constant `VerifiedRewriter_with_ind_args` defined in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/`  
 1138 `Rewriter/ProofsCommon.v`. The definitions emitted can be found by looking at the tactic  
 1139 `Build_Rewriter` in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/AllTactics.v`, the  $\mathcal{L}_{tac}$  tactics  
 1140 `build_package` in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Language/IdentifiersBasicGenerate.v`  
 1141 and also in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Language/IdentifiersGenerate.v` (there is a dif-  
 1142 ferent tactic named `build_package` in each of these files), and `prove_package_proofs_via`  
 1143 which can be found in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Language/IdentifiersGenerateProofs.v`.

- 1144 4. The statements of rewrite rules are reified and soundness and syntactic-well-formedness  
 1145 lemmas are proven about each of them. This is done as part of the previous step, when  
 1146 the tactic `make_rewriter_all` transitively calls `Build_Rewriter` from `rewriter/src/`  
 1147 `Rewriter/Rewriter/AllTactics.v`. Reification is handled by the tactic `Build_RewriterT`  
 1148 in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/Reify.v`, while soundness and the syntactic-well-  
 1149 formedness proofs are handled by the tactics `prove_interp_good` and `prove_good` respec-  
 1150 tively, both in the source file `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/ProofsCommonTactics.v`.
- 1151 5. The definitions needed to perform reification and rewriting and the lemmas needed to  
 1152 prove correctness are assembled into a single package that can be passed by name to the  
 1153 rewriting tactic. This step is also performed by `make_rewriter_of_scraped_and_ind`  
 1154 in the source file `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Util/plugins/rewriter_build.ml`.

1155 When we want to rewrite with a rewriter package in a goal, the following steps are  
 1156 performed, with code in the following places:

- 1157 1. We rearrange the goal into a closed logical formula: all free-variable quantification in  
 1158 the proof context is replaced by changing the equality goal into an equality between  
 1159 two functions (taking the free variables as inputs). Note that it is not actually an  
 1160 equality between two functions but rather an `equiv` between two functions, where `equiv`  
 1161 is a custom relation we define indexed over type codes that is equality up to function  
 1162 extensionality. This step is performed by the tactic `generalize_hyps_for_rewriting`  
 1163 in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/AllTactics.v`.
- 1164 2. We reify the side of the goal we want to simplify, using the inductive codes in the  
 1165 specified package. That side of the goal is then replaced with a call to a denotation  
 1166 function on the reified version. This step is performed by the tactic `do_reify_rhs_with`  
 1167 in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/AllTactics.v`.
- 1168 3. We use a theorem stating that rewriting preserves denotations of well-formed terms to  
 1169 replace the denotation subterm with the denotation of the rewriter applied to the same  
 1170 reified term. We use Coq's built-in full reduction (`vm_compute`) to reduce the application  
 1171 of the rewriter to the reified term. This step is performed by the tactic `do_rewrite_with`  
 1172 in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/AllTactics.v`.
- 1173 4. Finally, we run `cbv` (a standard call-by-value reducer) to simplify away the invocation of  
 1174 the denotation function on the concrete syntax tree from rewriting. This step is performed  
 1175 by the tactic `do_final_cbv` in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/AllTactics.v`.

1176 These steps are put together in the tactic `Rewrite_for_gen` in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/`  
 1177 `Rewriter/AllTactics.v`.

1178 The expression language  $e$  corresponds to the inductive `expr` type defined in the module  
 1179 `Compilers.expr` in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Language/Language.v`.

## 1180 Our Approach in More Than Nine Steps

1181 As the nine steps of Subsection 3.1 do not exactly match the code, we describe here a more  
 1182 accurate version of what is going on. For ease of readability, we do not clutter this description  
 1183 with references to the code supplement, instead allowing the reader to match up the steps  
 1184 here with the more coarse-grained ones in Subsection 3.1 or Appendix G.3.1.

1185 In order to allow easy invocation of our rewriter, a great deal of code (about 6500 lines)  
 1186 needed to be written. Some of this code is about reifying rewrite rules into a form that the  
 1187 rewriter can deal with them in. Other code is about proving that the reified rewrite rules  
 1188 preserve interpretation and are well-formed. We wrote some plugin code to automatically  
 1189 generate the inductive type of base-type codes and identifier codes, as well as the two variants  
 1190 of the identifier-code inductive used internally in the rewriter. One interesting bit of code  
 1191 that resulted was a plugin that can emit an inductive declaration given the Church encoding  
 1192 (or eliminator) of the inductive type to be defined. We wrote a great deal of tactic code to  
 1193 prove basic properties about these inductive types, from the fact that one can unify two  
 1194 identifier codes and extract constraints on their type variables from this unification, to the  
 1195 fact that type codes have decidable equality. Additional plugin code was written to invoke  
 1196 the tactics that construct these definitions and prove these properties, so that we could  
 1197 generate an entire rewriter from a single command, rather than having the user separately  
 1198 invoke multiple commands in sequence.

1199 In order to build the precomputed rewriter, the following actions are performed:

- 1200 1. The terms and types to be supported by the rewriter package are scraped from the given  
 1201 lemmas.
- 1202 2. An inductive type of codes for the types is emitted, and then three different versions of  
 1203 inductive codes for the identifiers are emitted (one with type arguments, one with type  
 1204 arguments supporting pattern type variables, and one without any type arguments, to be  
 1205 used internally in pattern-matching compilation).
- 1206 3. Tactics generate all of the necessary definitions and prove all of the necessary lemmas  
 1207 for dealing with this particular set of inductive codes. Definitions cover categories like  
 1208 “Boolean equality on type codes” and “how to extract the pattern type variables from a  
 1209 given identifier code,” and lemma categories include “type codes have decidable equality”  
 1210 and “the types being coded for have decidable equality” and “the identifiers all respect  
 1211 function extensionality.”
- 1212 4. The rewrite rules are reified, and we prove interpretation-correctness and well-formedness  
 1213 lemmas about each of them.
- 1214 5. The definitions needed to perform reification and rewriting and the lemmas needed to  
 1215 prove correctness are assembled into a single package that can be passed by name to the  
 1216 rewriting tactic.
- 1217 6. The denotation functions for type and identifier codes are marked for early expansion in  
 1218 the kernel via the **Strategy** command; this is necessary for conversion at **Qed**-time to  
 1219 perform reasonably on enormous goals.

1220 When we want to rewrite with a rewriter package in a goal, the following steps are  
 1221 performed:

- 1222 1. We use **etransitivity** to allow rewriting separately on the left- and right-hand-sides  
 1223 of an equality. Note that we do not currently support rewriting in non-equality goals,  
 1224 but this is easily worked around using `let v := open_constr(_) in replace <some  
 1225 term> with v` and then rewriting in the second goal.

- 1226 2. We revert all hypotheses mentioned in the goal, and change the form of the goal from  
1227 a universally quantified statement about equality into a statement that two functions  
1228 are extensionally equal. Note that this step will fail if any hypotheses are functions not  
1229 known to respect function extensionality via typeclass search.
- 1230 3. We reify the side of the goal that is not an existential variable using the inductive codes  
1231 in the specified package; the resulting goal equates the denotation of the newly reified  
1232 term with the original `evvar`.
- 1233 4. We use a lemma stating that rewriting preserves denotations of well-formed terms to  
1234 replace the goal with the rewriter applied to our reified term. We use `vm_compute` to  
1235 prove the well-formedness side condition reflectively. We use `vm_compute` again to reduce  
1236 the application of the rewriter to the reified term.
- 1237 5. Finally, we run `cbv` to unfold the denotation function, and we instantiate the `evvar` with  
1238 the resulting rewritten term.

1239 There are a couple of steps that contribute to the trusted code base. We must trust that  
1240 the rewriter package we generate from the rewrite rules in fact matches the rewrite rules  
1241 we want to rewrite with. This involves partially trusting the scraper, the reifier, and the  
1242 glue code. We must also trust the VM we use for reduction at various points in rewriting.  
1243 Otherwise, everything is checked by Coq.

### 1244 G.3.2 Code from Subsection 3.2, Pattern-Matching Compilation and 1245 Evaluation

1246 The pattern-matching compilation step is done by the tactic `CompileRewrites` in `rewriter/  
1247 src/Rewriter/Rewriter/Rewriter.v`, which just invokes the Gallina definition named  
1248 `compile_rewrites` with ever-increasing amounts of fuel until it succeeds. (It should never  
1249 fail for reasons other than insufficient fuel, unless there is a bug in the code.) The workhorse  
1250 function here is `compile_rewrites_step`.

1251 The decision-tree evaluation step is done by the definition `eval_rewrite_rules`, also  
1252 in the file `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/Rewriter.v`. The correctness lemmas are  
1253 the theorem `eval_rewrite_rules_correct` in the file `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/  
1254 InterpProofs.v` and the theorem `wf_eval_rewrite_rules` in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/  
1255 Rewriter/Wf.v`. Note that the second of these lemmas, not mentioned in the paper, is  
1256 effectively saying that for two related syntax trees, `eval_rewrite_rules` picks the same  
1257 rewrite rule for both. (We actually prove a slightly weaker lemma, which is a bit harder to  
1258 state in English.)

1259 The third step of rewriting with a given rule is performed by the definition `rewrite_with_rule`  
1260 in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/Rewriter.v`. The correctness proof goes by the name  
1261 `interp_rewrite_with_rule` in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/InterpProofs.v`. Note  
1262 that the well-formedness-preservation proof for this definition is inlined into the proof of the  
1263 lemma `wf_eval_rewrite_rules` mentioned above.

1264 The inductive description of decision trees is `decision_tree` in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/  
1265 Rewriter/Rewriter.v`.

1266 The pattern language is defined as the inductive `pattern` in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/  
1267 Rewriter/Rewriter.v`. Note that we have a `Raw` version and a typed version; the pattern-  
1268 matching compilation and decision-tree evaluation of Aehlig et al. [1] is an algorithm on  
1269 untyped patterns and untyped terms. We found that trying to maintain typing constraints led  
1270 to headaches with dependent types. Therefore when doing the actual decision-tree evaluation,  
1271 we wrap all of our expressions in the dynamically typed `rawexpr` type and all of our patterns

1272 in the dynamically typed `Raw.pattern` type. We also emit separate inductives of identifier  
 1273 codes for each of the `expr`, `pattern`, and `Raw.pattern` type families.

1274 We partially evaluate the partial evaluator defined by `eval_rewrite_rules` in the  $\mathcal{L}_{tac}$   
 1275 tactic `make_rewrite_head` in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/Reify.v`.

### 1276 G.3.3 Code from Subsection 3.3, Adding Higher-Order Features

1277 The type  $NbE_t$  mentioned in this paper is not actually used in the code; the version we  
 1278 have is described in Subsection 4.2 as the definition `value'` in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/  
 1279 Rewriter/Rewriter.v`.

1280 The functions `reify` and `reflect` are defined in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/  
 1281 Rewriter.v` and share names with the functions in the paper. The function `reduce` is named  
 1282 `rewrite_bottomup` in the code, and the closest match to  $NbE$  is `rewrite`.

## 1283 G.4 Code from Section 4, Scaling Challenges

### 1284 G.4.1 Code from Subsection 4.1, Variable Environments Will Be Large

1285 The inductives `type`, `base_type` (actually the inductive type `base.type.type` in the sup-  
 1286 plemental code), and `expr`, as well as the definition `Expr`, are all defined in `rewriter/src/  
 1287 Rewriter/Language/Language.v`. The definition `denoteT` is the fixpoint type `interp` (the  
 1288 fixpoint `interp` in the module `type`) in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Language/Language.v`.  
 1289 The definition `denoteE` is `expr.interp`, and `DenoteE` is the fixpoint `expr.interp`.

1290 As mentioned above, `nbeT` does not actually exist as stated but is close to `value'` in  
 1291 `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/Rewriter.v`. The functions `reify` and `reflect` are  
 1292 defined in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/Rewriter.v` and share names with the func-  
 1293 tions in the paper. The actual code is somewhat more complicated than the version presented  
 1294 in the paper, due to needing to deal with converting well-typed-by-construction expres-  
 1295 sions to dynamically typed expressions for use in decision-tree evaluation and also due  
 1296 to the need to support early partial evaluation against a concrete decision tree. Thus  
 1297 the version of `reflect` that actually invokes rewriting at base types is a separate defini-  
 1298 tion `assemble_identifier_rewriters`, while `reify` invokes a version of `reflect` (named  
 1299 `reflect`) that does not call rewriting. The function named `reduce` is what we call  
 1300 `rewrite_bottomup` in the code; the name `Rewrite` is shared between this paper and the code.  
 1301 Note that we eventually instantiate the argument `rewrite_head` of `rewrite_bottomup` with a  
 1302 partially evaluated version of the definition named `assemble_identifier_rewriters`. Note  
 1303 also that we use `fuel` to support `do_again`, and this is used in the definition `repeat_rewrite`  
 1304 that calls `rewrite_bottomup`.

1305 The correctness proofs are `InterpRewrite` in the Coq source file `rewriter/src/Rewriter/  
 1306 Rewriter/InterpProofs.v` and `Wf_Rewrite` in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/Wf.v`.

1307 Packages containing rewriters and their correctness theorems are in the record `VerifiedRewriter`  
 1308 in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/ProofsCommon.v`; a package of this type is then  
 1309 passed to the tactic `Rewrite_for_gen` from `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/AllTactics.v`  
 1310 to perform the actual rewriting. The correspondence of the code to the various steps in  
 1311 rewriting is described in the second list of Appendix G.3.1.

### 1312 G.4.2 Code from Subsection 4.2, Subterm Sharing Is Crucial

1313 To run the P-256 example in the copy of Fiat Cryptography attached as a code supplement,  
 1314 after building the library, run the code

```
Require Import Crypto.Rewriter.PerfTesting.Core.
Require Import Crypto.Util.Option.
```

```
Import WordByWordMontgomery.
Import Core.RuntimeDefinitions.
```

```
Definition p : params
:= Eval compute in invert_Some (of_string "2^256-2^224+2^192+2^96-1" 64).
```

```
Goal True.
```

```
  (* Successful run: *)
```

```
  Time let v := (eval cbv
    -[Let_In
      runtime_nth_default
      runtime_add runtime_sub runtime_mul runtime_opp runtime_div runtime_modulo
      RT_Z.add_get_carry_full RT_Z.add_with_get_carry_full RT_Z.mul_split]
    in (GallinaDefOf p)) in
    idtac.
```

```
  (* Unsuccessful OOM run: *)
```

```
  Time let v := (eval cbv
    -[(*Let_In*)
      runtime_nth_default
      runtime_add runtime_sub runtime_mul runtime_opp runtime_div runtime_modulo
      RT_Z.add_get_carry_full RT_Z.add_with_get_carry_full RT_Z.mul_split]
    in (GallinaDefOf p)) in
    idtac.
```

```
Abort.
```

1315 The UnderLets monad is defined in the file `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Language/UnderLets.v`.

1316 The definitions `nbeT'`, `nbeT`, and `nbeT_with_lets` are in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/`

1317 `Rewriter/Rewriter.v` and are named `value'`, `value`, and `value_with_lets`, respectively.

### 1318 G.4.3 Code from Subsection 4.3, Rules Need Side Conditions

1319 The “variant of pattern variable that only matches constants” is actually special support  
 1320 for the reification of `ident.literal` (defined in the module `RewriteRuleNotations` in  
 1321 `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Language/Pre.v`) threaded throughout the rewriter. The apos-  
 1322 trophe notation `'` is also introduced in the module `RewriteRuleNotations` in `rewriter/`  
 1323 `src/Rewriter/Language/Pre.v`. The support for side conditions is handled by permit-  
 1324 ting rewrite-rule-replacement expressions to return `option expr` instead of `expr`, allow-  
 1325 ing the function `expr_to_pattern_and_replacement` in the file `rewriter/src/Rewriter/`  
 1326 `Rewriter/Reify.v` to fold the side conditions into a choice of whether to return `Some` or  
 1327 `None`.

### 1328 G.4.4 Code from Subsection 4.4, Side Conditions Need Abstract 1329 Interpretation

1330 The abstract-interpretation pass is defined in `fiat-crypto/src/AbstractInterpretation/`  
 1331 `,` and the rewrite rules handling abstract-interpretation results are the Gallina definitions  
 1332 `arith_with_casts_rewrite_rulesT`, as well as `strip_literal_casts_rewrite_rulesT`,  
 1333 as well as `fancy_with_casts_rewrite_rulesT`, and finally as well as `mul_split_rewrite_rulesT`,  
 1334 all defined in `fiat-crypto/src/Rewriter/Rules.v`.

1335 The `clip` function is the definition `ident.cast` in `fiat-crypto/src/Language/PreExtra.v`.



## G.5 Code from Section 5, Evaluation

### G.5.1 Code from Subsection 5.1, Iteration on the Fiat Cryptography Compiler

The old continuation-passing-style versions of verified arithmetic functions can be found in the folder `fiat-crypto/src/ArithmeticCPS/`, while the new versions can be found in the folder `fiat-crypto/src/Arithmetic/`.

The rewrite rules for reassociating arithmetic can be found in `arith_rewrite_rulesT` starting at the comment “We reassociate some multiplication of small constants” in `fiat-crypto/src/Rewriter/Rules.v`.

The following frontend constructs are in `all_ident_named_interped` defined in `fiat-crypto/src/Language/IdentifierParameters.v`.

- The multiplication primitives are `with_name ident_Z_mul_split Z.mul_split` as well as `with_name ident_Z_mul_high Z.mul_high`, as well as the various Coq expressions `with_name ident_fancy_mulXX ident.fancy.mulXX` for each `X` being either `l` or `h`.
- The “comment” function is both `with_name ident_comment (@ident.comment)` as well as `with_name ident_comment_no_keep (@ident.comment_no_keep)`.
- The bitwise exclusive-or is `with_name ident_Z_lxor Z.lxor`.
- The special identity function which prints in the backend as a call to some inline assembly is `with_name ident_value_barrier (@Z.value_barrier)`.

The rules about bitmasking operations can be found in `arith_with_casts_rewrite_rulesT` in `fiat-crypto/src/Rewriter/Rules.v` and involve `Z.land` and `Z.lor`.

The compiler configuration about conditional-move instructions is the flag `-cmovznz-by-mul` defined in `fiat-crypto/src/CLI.v`. The if-statement using the thus-defined `use_mul_for_cmovznz` is in `src/PushButtonSynthesis/Primitives.v`.

The rewrite rules for the new backends are defined by `fancy_with_casts_rewrite_rulesT` and `mul_split_rewrite_rulesT` as well as `multiret_split_rewrite_rulesT` as well as `noselect_rewrite_rulesT` in `fiat-crypto/src/Rewriter/Rules.v`. The special function `Z.combine_at_bitwidth` is defined in `fiat-crypto/src/Util/ZUtil/Definitions.v`. The designation of `Z.combine_at_bitwidth` as an identifier that should be inlined occurs by listing it in the definition `var_like_idents` in the source file `fiat-crypto/src/Language/IdentifierParameters.v`.

The rules involving carries mentioned in Appendix D, Fusing Compiler Passes are in `arith_with_casts_rewrite_rulesT` in `fiat-crypto/src/Rewriter/Rules.v`.

### G.5.2 Code from Subsection 5.2, Microbenchmarks

This code is found in the files in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/Examples/`. We ran the microbenchmarks using the code in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/Examples/PerfTesting/Harness.v` together with some Makefile cleverness.

The code for Figure 3a from Appendix C.1, Rewriting Without Binders: `Plus0Tree` can be found in `Plus0Tree.v`.

The code for Figure 3b from Appendix C.2, Rewriting Under Binders: `UnderLetsPlus0` can be found in `UnderLetsPlus0.v`.

The code for Figure 9 from Appendix C.3, Binders and Recursive Functions: `LiftLetsMap` can be found in `LiftLetsMap.v`.

The code for Figure 10 from Appendix C.4, SieveOfEratosthenes can be found in `SieveOfEratosthenes.v`.



### 1381 G.5.3 Code from Subsection 5.3, Macrobenchmark: Fiat Cryptography

1382 The rewrite rules are defined in `fiat-crypto/src/Rewriter/Rules.v` and proven in the file  
 1383 `fiat-crypto/src/Rewriter/RulesProofs.v`. They are turned into rewriters in the various  
 1384 files in `fiat-crypto/src/Rewriter/Passes/`. The shared inductives and definitions are  
 1385 defined in the Coq source file `fiat-crypto/src/Language/IdentifiersBasicGENERATED.v`,  
 1386 the Coq source file `fiat-crypto/src/Language/IdentifiersGENERATED.v`, and finally also  
 1387 the Coq source file `fiat-crypto/src/Language/IdentifiersGENERATEDProofs.v`. Note  
 1388 that we invoke the subtactics of the `Make` command manually to increase parallelism in the  
 1389 build and to allow a shared language across multiple rewriter packages.

### 1390 G.6 Code from Appendix F, Limitations and Preprocessing

1391 The  $\mathcal{L}_{tac}$  hooks for extending the preprocessing of eliminators are `reify_preprocess_extra`  
 1392 and `reify_ident_preprocess_extra` in a submodule of `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Language/`  
 1393 `PreCommon.v`. These hooks are called by `reify_preprocess` and `reify_ident_preprocess`  
 1394 in a submodule of `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Language/Language.v`. Some recursion lem-  
 1395 mas for use with these tactics are defined in the `Thunked` module in `fiat-crypto/src/`  
 1396 `Language/PreExtra.v`. These tactics are overridden in the file `fiat-crypto/src/Language/`  
 1397 `IdentifierParameters.v`.

1398 The typeclass associated to `eval_rect` (c.f. Appendix G.2) is `rules_proofs_for_eager_type`  
 1399 defined in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Language/Pre.v`. The instances we provide by default  
 1400 are defined in a submodule of `src/Rewriter/Language/PreLemmas.v`.

1401 The hard-coding of the eliminators for use with `ident.eagerly` (c.f. Appendix G.2)  
 1402 is done in the tactics `reify_ident_preprocess` and `rewrite_interp_eager` in `rewriter/`  
 1403 `src/Rewriter/Language/Language.v`, in the inductive type `restricted_ident` and the  
 1404 typeclass `BuildEagerIdentT` in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Language/Language.v`, and in  
 1405 the  $\mathcal{L}_{tac}$  tactic with the name of `handle_reified_rewrite_rules_interp` defined in the  
 1406 file `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Rewriter/ProofsCommonTactics.v`.

1407 The `Let_In` constant is defined in `rewriter/src/Rewriter/Util/LetIn.v`.