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OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Set Constraints, Pattern Match Analysis, and SMT

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# Introduction

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## Motivation: Pattern Match Analysis

Safe if `tree` is never  
(`Branch []`)

```
numNodes tree =  
  case tree of  
    Leaf data -> 1  
    Branch [child] ->  
      1+numNodes child  
    Branch (h:t) ->  
      1+foldMap numNodes t
```

Missing  
`Branch []`

Model set of values `tree` can safely take

## Pattern Match Analysis (ctd.)

Return contains 1 iff  
tree contains Leaf \_

```
numNodes tree =  
  case tree of  
    Leaf data -> 1  
    Branch [child] ->  
      1+numNodes child  
    Branch (h:t) ->  
      1+foldMap numNodes t
```

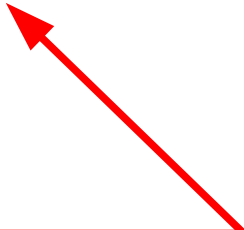
Reachable  
iff >2 children

Result set  
defined  
recursively

Model set of values `numNodes` can return

# Reasoning Backwards

```
case numNodes tree of
  1 ->
    let (Leaf data) = tree
    in ...
  _ -> ...
```



Know this is safe:  
numNodes returns 1,  
so input is Leaf

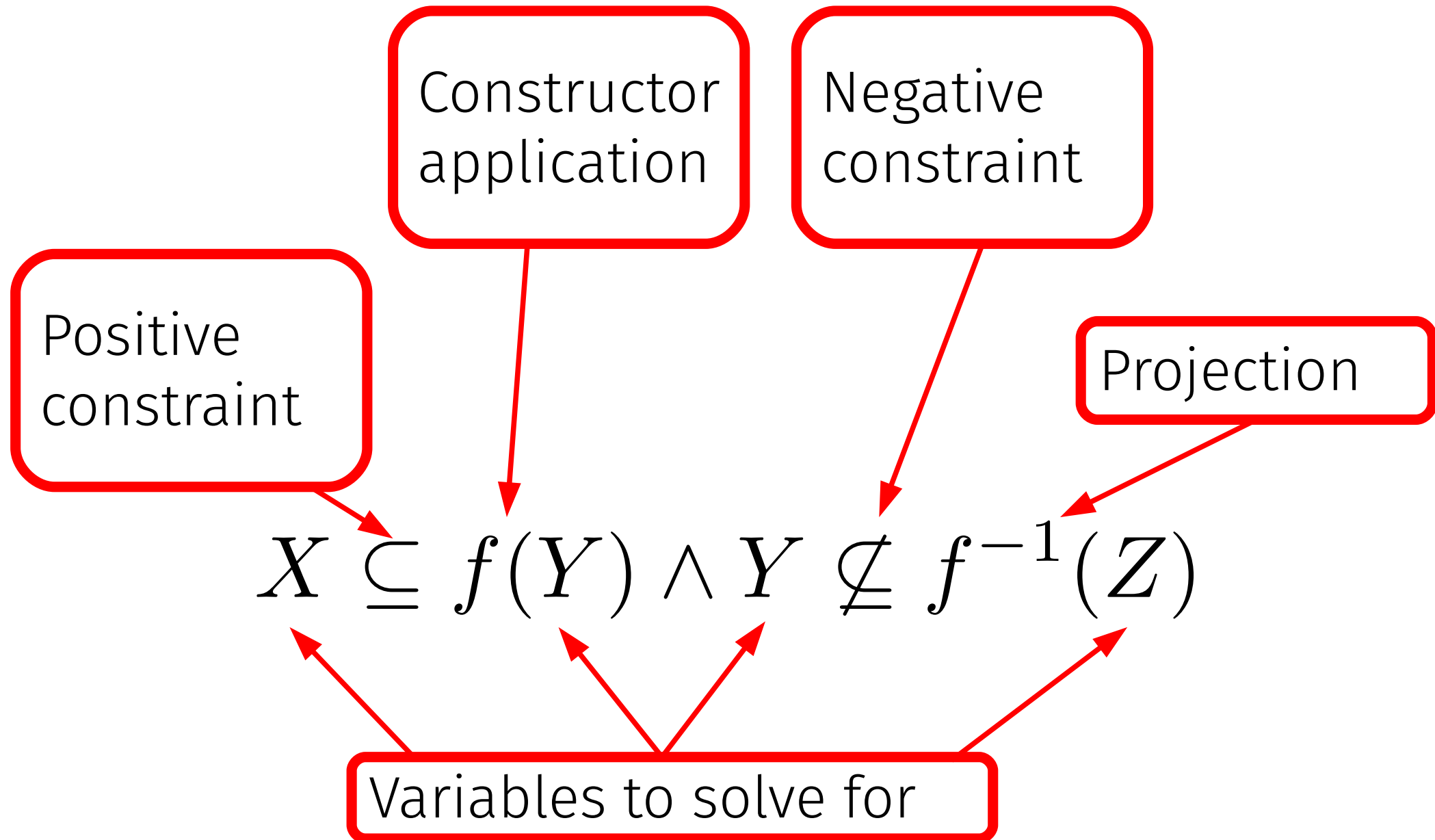
All can be modeled with  
(unrestricted) Set Constraints!

# What We Need

- Need to reason about:
  - Sets of values
  - Constructor application and projection
- Must support:
  - Variables
  - Negative constraints
  - Boolean combinations (implication)

... Set Constraints!

# Anatomy of Set Constraints



# Solve all the set constraints!



A Decision Procedure  
for a Class of Set Constraints

Solving Classes of Set Constraints  
with Tree Automata

Solving Systems of Set Constraints  
(Extended Abstract)

Decidability of Systems of Set Constraints  
with Negative Constraints\*

Negative set constraints with equality\*

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Institute of Computer Science

Leszek Pacholski<sup>‡</sup>  
Institute of Mathematics

## Set Constraints with Projections

WITOLD CHARATONIK AND LESZEK PACHOLSKI

University of Wrocław, Wrocław, Poland

**Abstract.** Set constraints form a constraint system where variables range over the domain of sets of trees. They give a natural formalism for many problems in program analysis. Syntactically, set constraints are conjunctions of inclusions between expressions built over variables, constructors (constants and function symbols from a given signature) and a choice of set operators that defines the specific class of set constraints. In this article, we are interested in the class of *set constraints with projections*, which is the class with all Boolean operators (union, intersection and complement) and *projections* that in program analysis directly correspond to type destructors. We prove that the problem of existence of a solution of a system of set constraints with projections is in NEXPTIME, and thus that it is NEXPTIME-complete.



# Solve all the set constraints?

## Set Constraints are the Monadic Class

Leo Bachmair\*

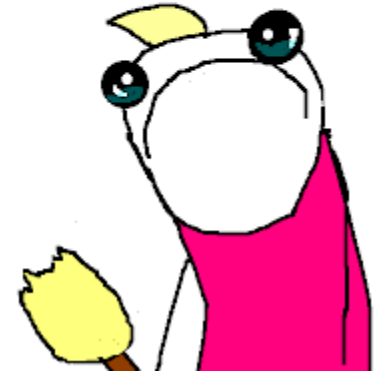
Harald Ganzinger†

Uwe Waldmann†

### Abstract

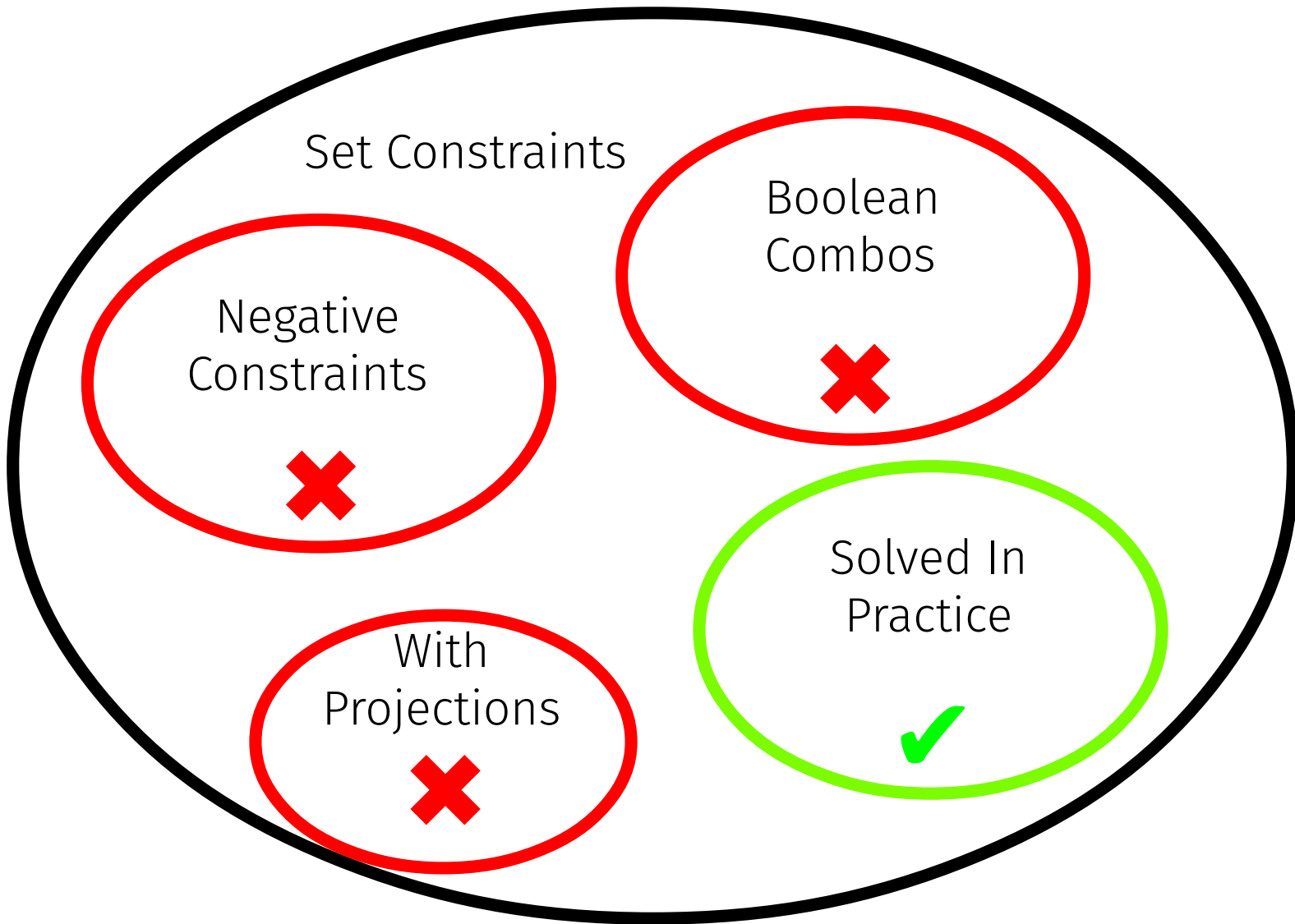
We investigate the relationship between set constraints and the monadic class of first-order formulas and show that set constraints are essentially equivalent to the monadic class. From this equivalence we can infer that the satisfiability problem for set constraints is complete for NEXPTIME. More precisely, we prove that this problem has a lower bound of  $\text{NTIME}(c^{n/\log n})$ . The relationship between set constraints and the monadic class also gives us decidability and complexity results for certain practically useful extensions of set constraints, in particular “negative” projections and subterm equality tests.

Set constraints can be reduced to the satisfiability of monadic formulas via length order  $n^2$ , conversely, the satisfiability of monadic formulas can be reduced to the satisfiability of set constraints via length order  $n^2/\log n$ . As a consequence, the satisfiability of set constraints is complete for NEXPTIME, a result that was left open in (Aiken and Wimmers 1992). More precisely, we establish  $\text{NTIME}(c^{n/\log n})$ , for some  $c > 0$ , as a lower bound for the problem. The relationship between set constraints and the monadic class allows us to extend set constraints by diagonalization (i.e., by projections and by projections. By the relationship between the monadic class with known results



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# Theory vs. Practice



# Solving Set Constraints

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$$x \in S \iff P_S(x)$$

Predicate for each  
sub-expr of constraint  
(à la Tseitin )

Takes exactly  
one argument

Semantics of sets as first-  
order formulas e.g.

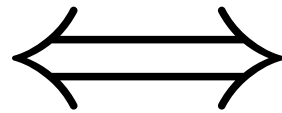
$$\forall x. P_{\neg S}(x) \iff \neg P_S(x)$$

## Set Constraint As Formula

$$\begin{array}{c} S \subseteq T \\ \Downarrow \\ \forall x. P_S(x) \implies P_T(x) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} S \not\subseteq T \\ \Downarrow \\ \exists x. P_S(x) \wedge \neg P_T(x) \end{array}$$

$n$ -predicate  
formula  
holds




formula has  
model with  
 $\leq 2^n$  elems

✓ Decidable... by trying  $2^{2^n}$  models ✗

- Objects in model?
  - Eq. Classes of Predicate values
- Model is:
  - Subset of possible Eq. classes
- Idea: model domain as a function
  - Type  $\mathbb{B}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$
  - Filters equivalence classes

Domain  $D \subseteq \mathbb{B}^n$

0110011 ... 01001



Bit  $i$  set iff  $P_i(x)$   
holds for  $x$



Uninterpreted function

$$\text{inDomain} : \mathbb{B}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$$

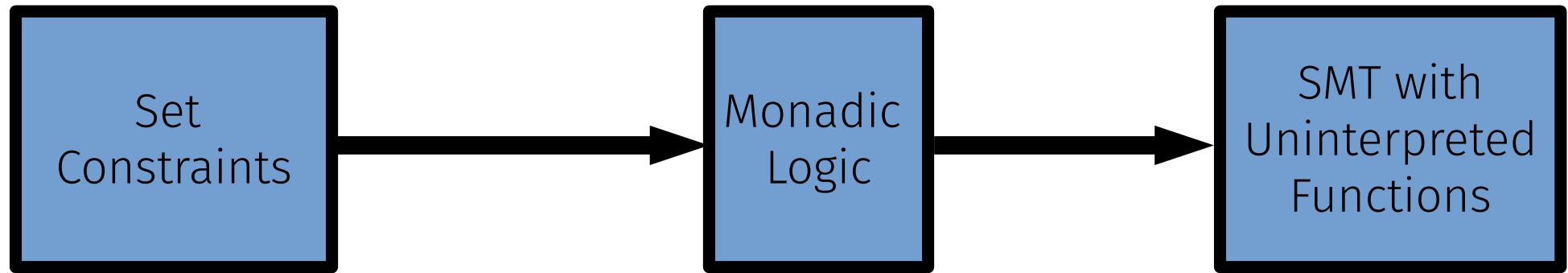
Qualify formulas e.g.

$$S \subseteq T$$
$$\Downarrow$$

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{B}^n. \text{inDomain}(x)$$

$$\implies (P_S(x) \implies P_T(x))$$

# Solving the Constraints



Solver finds:

- impl. for `inDomain` :  $\mathbb{B}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$
- impl. for each constructor  
 $f : (\mathbb{B}^n)^k \rightarrow \mathbb{B}^n$

# Results

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Translate to SMT

- written in Haskell
- Solved with Z3



Pattern Match Analysis

- Modified Elm compiler
- Emits set constraints



# The Experiment

- Compile the rtfeldman/elm-css library
- Measure slowdown:
  - Exhaustiveness checking (default)
  - Pattern-match analysis

# Results

- Bad news
  - Min slowdown factor 13 (273 ms)
  - Max slowdown factor 468753 (30 minutes)
- Good news
  - Worst case had domain  $\subseteq \mathbb{B}^{50}$
  - $-2^{50}$  ns  $\approx$  13 days  $>$  30 minutes

# Going Forward

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# Limitations

- It's slow
  - But not heat-death of the universe slow
- Error messages not great
  - Need UNSAT core of set constraints



# Open Questions

- Is Z3 the best option?
  - CVC4 more configurable?
  - QBF or OBDD?
- What causes specific case to blow-up?
  - Large number of projections?
- What heuristics can help with the speedup?

Set constraints can be solved in practice...  
but require a bit of patience!

Preprint link at [eremondi.com](https://eremondi.com)