A Partial Metric Semantics of Higher-Order Types and Approximate Program Transformations

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How to measure distances between programs?

Why measure distances between programs? Justify approximate transformations:

Justify approximate transformations:

```
float Q_rsqrt( float number ) {
  int32_t i; float x2, y;
  const float threehalfs = 1.5F;
 x2 = number * 0.5F;
  y = number;
 i = * (long *) &y; // evil floating point
                     // bit-level hacking
  i = 0x5f3759df - (i >> 1) // WTF?
    = * ( float * ) &i;
 y = y * (threehalfs - (x2 * y * y));
  return y;
```

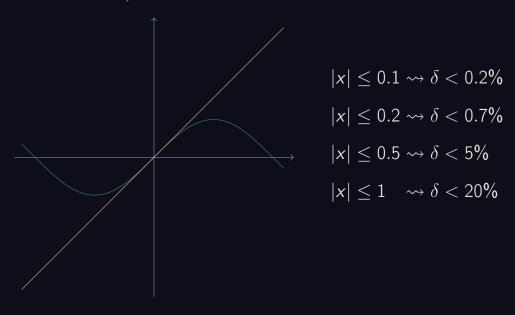
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A context-dependent transformation



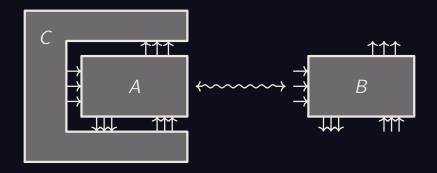
Approximate semantics

[Dal Lago, Gavazzo, Yoshimizu: Differential logical relations]

- Substitute part of a program with a close enough approximation of it,
- Whether this substitution is close enough depends on the context,
- ▶ Interaction with the context goes both ways.

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Distances between programs of type A measured in $((A), \leq, \bigvee, +)$ \rightsquigarrow quantale.

Type A interpreted by

- ► A set [A] of denotations,
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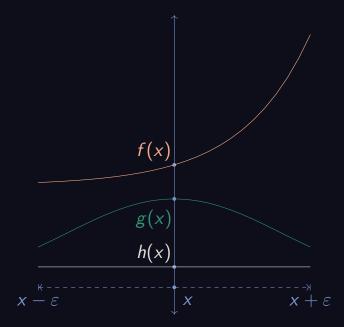
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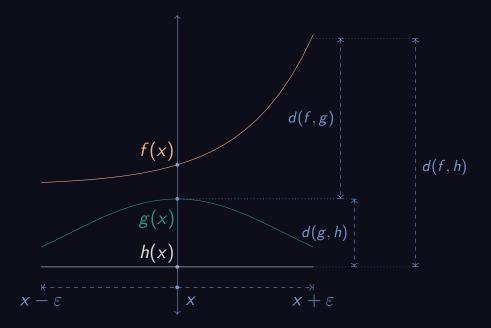
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Not satisfied

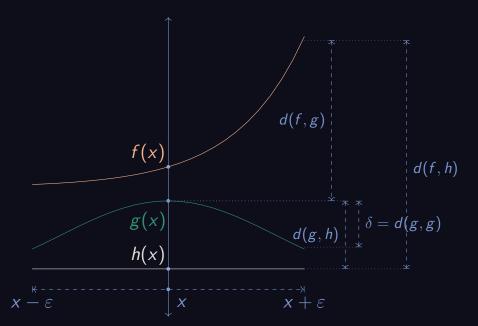
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Object of this talk

Two ideas:

- By changing slightly how distances between functions are computed, we obtain partial metric spaces,
- ▶ Independently of distances, approximate semantics ↔ cartesian lax-closed poset-enriched categories.

A change in point of view:

► Forget about reference points

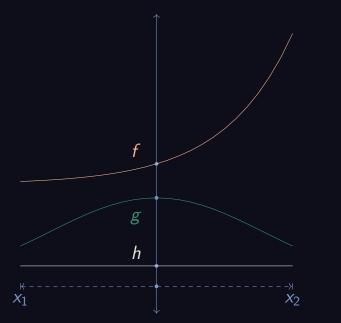
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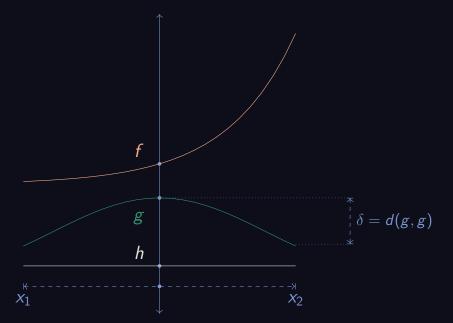
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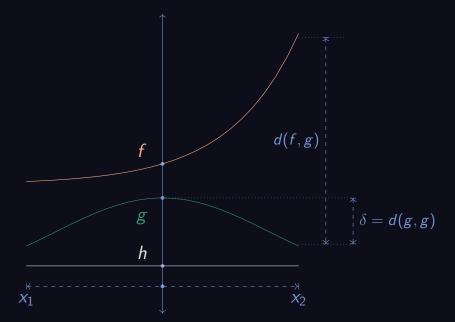
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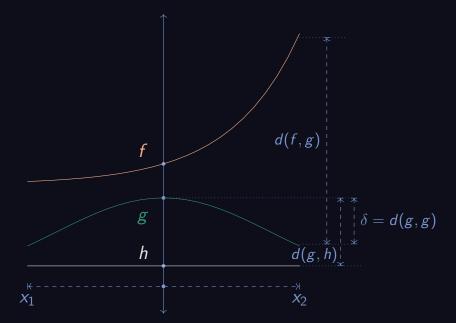
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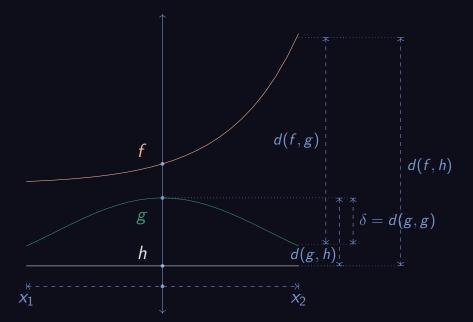
▶ Forget about reference points: $1 \pm 0.1 \rightsquigarrow [0.9, 1.1]$.



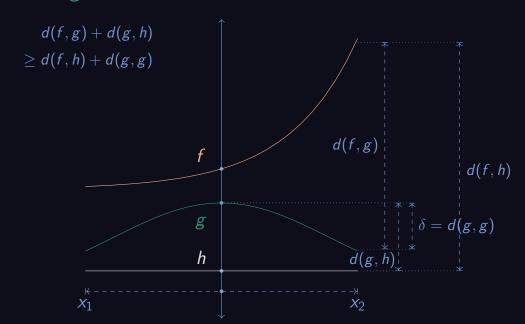








Removing the reference: balls \rightsquigarrow intervals



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- ► a quantale (A) of distances:
 - $\blacktriangleright \quad (|Real|) = [0, +\infty],$
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 - $\blacktriangleright (A \rightarrow B) = [A] \rightarrow (B),$
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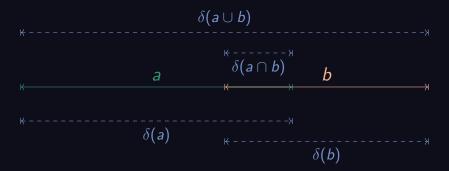
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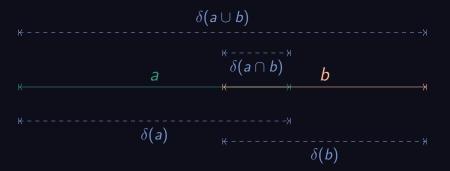
Let $d(x, y) = \delta(\text{smallest interval containing } x \text{ and } y)$:

Do we have
$$d(x,z) + d(y,y) \le d(x,y) + d(y,z)$$
?

Sub-modularity

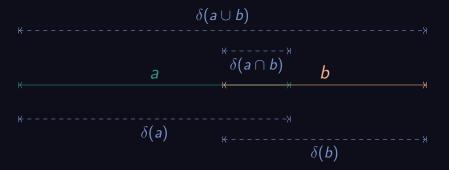


Sub-modularity



For all types A, if $a \wedge b \neq \emptyset$, $\delta_A(a \vee b) + \delta_A(a \wedge b) \leq \delta_A(a) + \delta_A(b)$

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$$\rightsquigarrow d(x,z) + d(y,y) \leq d(x,y) + d(y,z)$$

Definition: An approximate function from A to B is an interval $f \subseteq [A \rightarrow B]$.

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Types and approximate functions do not form a category: no associativity

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$$\llbracket A \rrbracket \to \llbracket B \rrbracket \ \stackrel{\mathsf{pack}}{\underset{\mathsf{unpack}}{\longleftarrow}} \ \llbracket A \to B \rrbracket$$

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Thank you!