

# Higher-Order Model Checking for Program Verification

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# This Talk

- ◆ Overview of higher-order program verification based on higher-order model checking (or, the model checking of higher-order recursion schemes)
  - What is higher-order model checking?
  - How can program verification be reduced to higher-order model checking?
  - How can higher-order model checking problems be solved?

**Goal: Software model checker for ML**

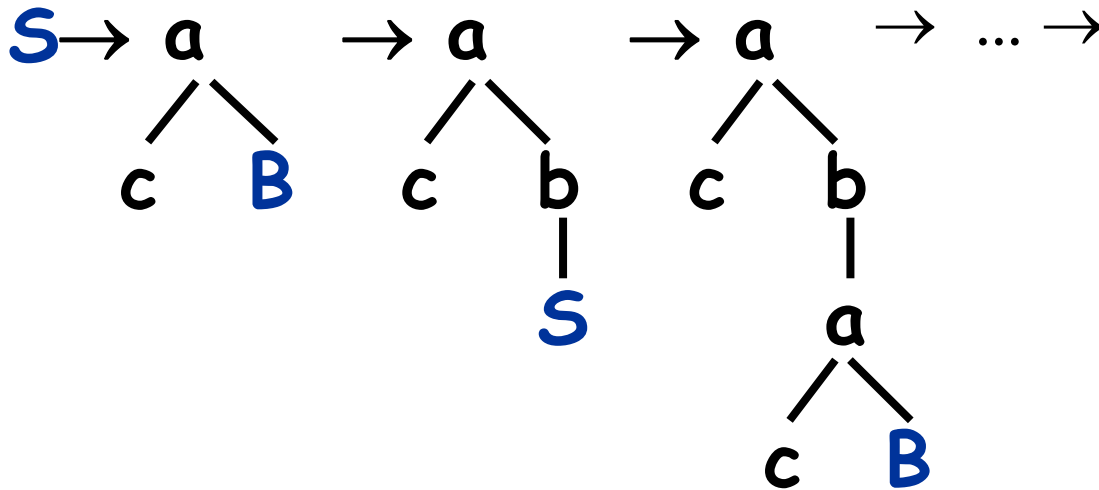
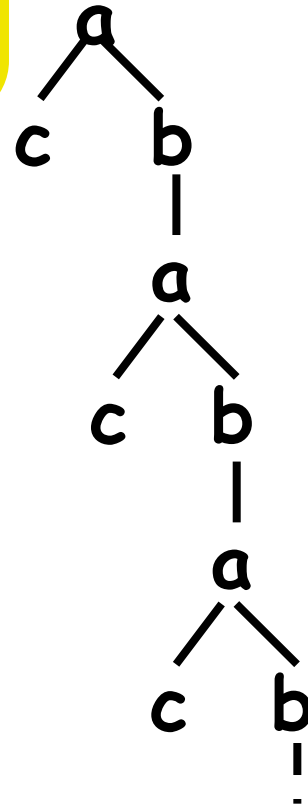
# Outline

- ◆ Higher-order recursion schemes and model checking
- ◆ From program verification to model checking of recursion schemes [K. POPL09]
- ◆ Dealing with infinite data
  - From recursion schemes to higher-order transducers [K., Tabuchi, and Unno, POPL10]
  - Predicate abstraction and CEGAR [K., Sato, Unno, 2010]
- ◆ Model checking algorithms for recursion schemes [K. PPDP09]
- ◆ Conclusion

# Higher-Order Recursion Scheme

## ◆ Grammar for generating an infinite tree

Order-0 scheme  
(regular tree grammar)

$$S \rightarrow a \ c \ B$$
$$B \rightarrow b \ S$$
$$S \rightarrow a \begin{array}{l} \swarrow \searrow \\ c \quad B \end{array}$$
$$B \rightarrow b \begin{array}{c} | \\ S \end{array}$$


# Higher-Order Recursion Scheme

◆ Grammar for Tree whose paths are labeled by  $a^{m+1} b^m c$  finite tree

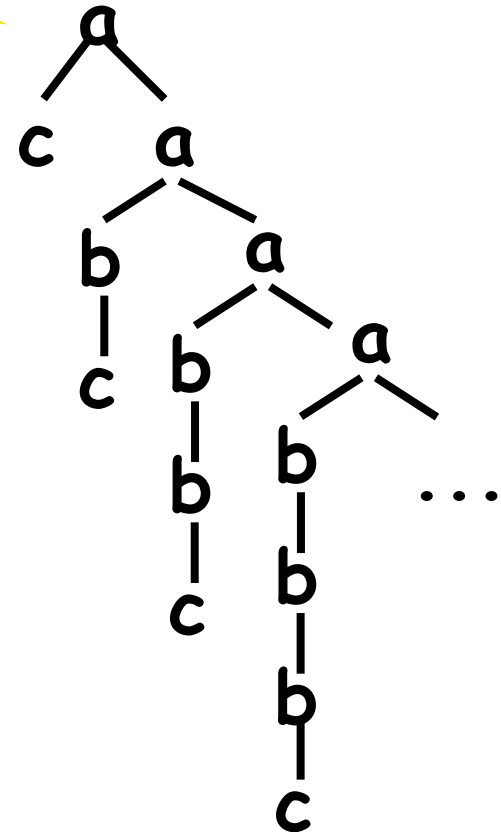
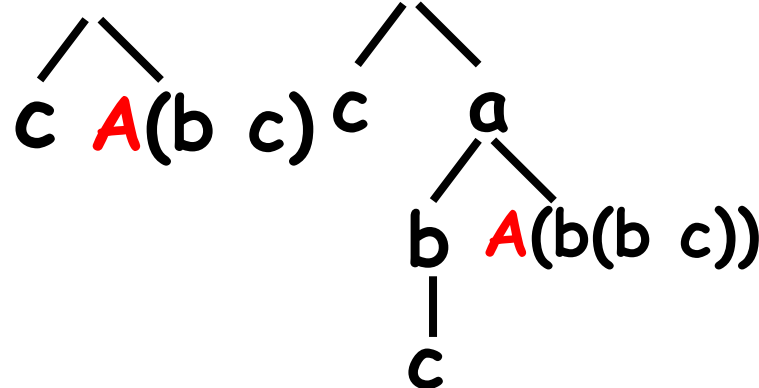
Order-1 scheme

$S \rightarrow A c$

$A \rightarrow \lambda x. a \ x \ (A \ (b \ x))$

$S: o, A: o \rightarrow o$

$S \rightarrow A c \rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow$



# Model Checking Recursion Schemes

Given

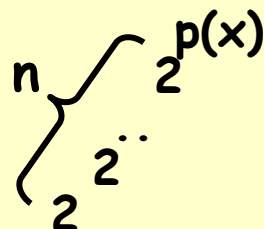
$G$ : higher-order recursion scheme

$A$ : alternating parity tree automaton (APT)  
(a formula of modal  $\mu$ -calculus or MSO),  
does  $A$  accept  $\text{Tree}(G)$ ?

e.g.

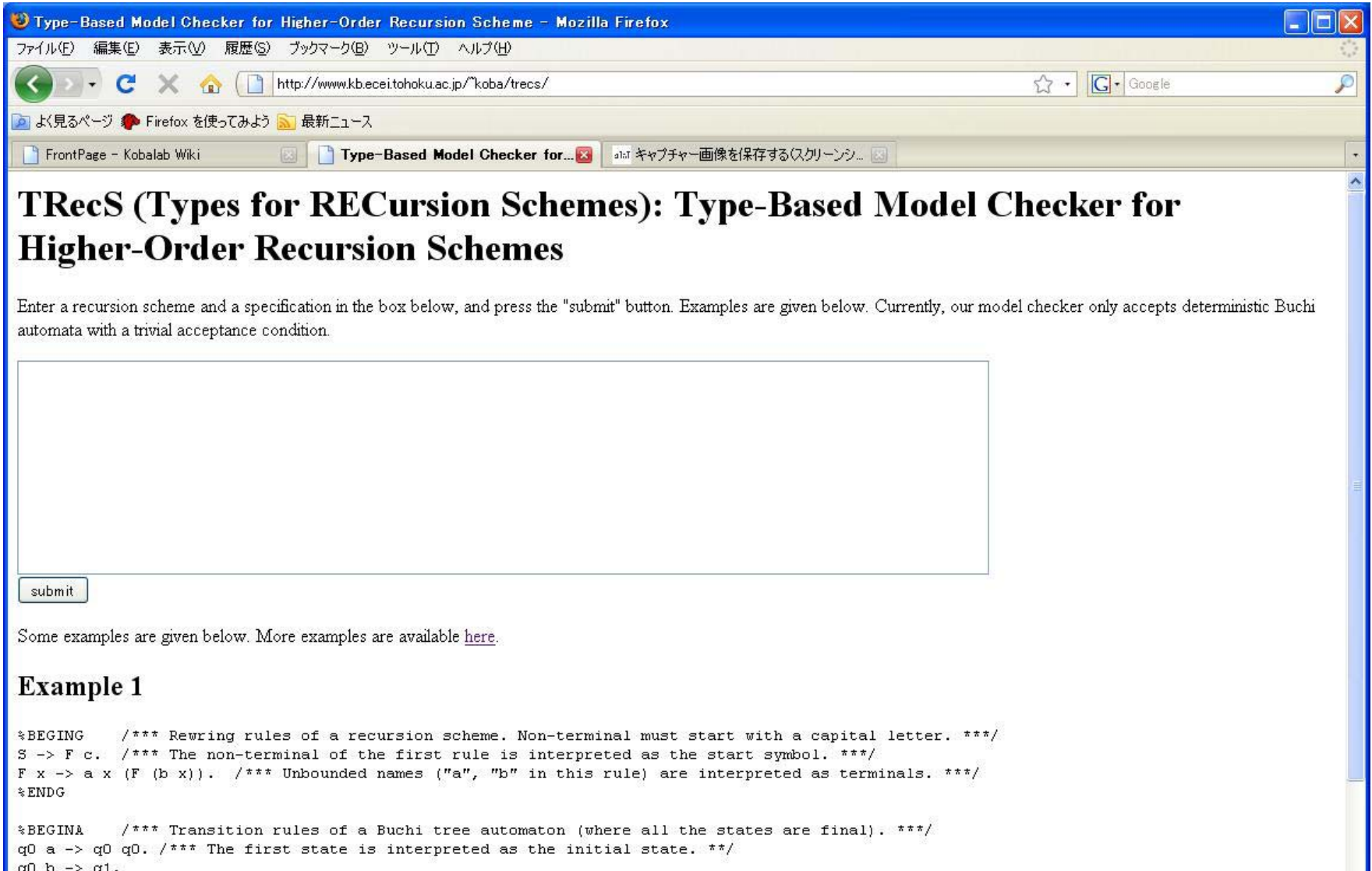
- Does every finite path end with "c"?
- Does "a" occur eventually whenever "b" occurs?

$n$ -EXPTIME-complete [Ong, LICS06]  
(for order- $n$  recursion scheme)



# TRecS [K., PPDP09]

<http://www.kb.ecei.tohoku.ac.jp/~koba/trecs/>



The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window with the title "Type-Based Model Checker for Higher-Order Recursion Scheme - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows the URL "http://www.kb.ecei.tohoku.ac.jp/~koba/trecs/". The browser's menu bar includes "ファイル(F)", "編集(E)", "表示(V)", "履歴(S)", "ブックマーク(B)", "ツール(T)", and "ヘルプ(H)". The toolbar contains icons for back, forward, home, and search, along with a search bar labeled "Google". The browser's status bar shows the current page is "FrontPage - Kobalab Wiki".

## TRecS (Types for RECurSION Schemes): Type-Based Model Checker for Higher-Order Recursion Schemes

Enter a recursion scheme and a specification in the box below, and press the "submit" button. Examples are given below. Currently, our model checker only accepts deterministic Buchi automata with a trivial acceptance condition.

Some examples are given below. More examples are available [here](#).

### Example 1

```
%BEGING    /** Rewriting rules of a recursion scheme. Non-terminal must start with a capital letter. ***/
S -> F c.  /** The non-terminal of the first rule is interpreted as the start symbol. ***/
F x -> a x (F (b x)). /** Unbounded names ("a", "b" in this rule) are interpreted as terminals. ***/
%ENDG

%BEGINA    /** Transition rules of a Buchi tree automaton (where all the states are final). ***/
q0 a -> q0 q0. /** The first state is interpreted as the initial state. **/
q0 b -> q1.
```

# Why Recursion Schemes?

## ◆ Expressive:

- Subsumes many other MSO-decidable tree classes (regular, algebraic, Caucal hierarchy, HPDS, ...)

## ◆ High-level (c.f. higher-order PDS):

- Recursion schemes

≈

Simply-typed  $\lambda$ -calculus

+ recursion

+ tree constructors (but not destructors)

+ finite data domains such as booleans

(via Church encoding,  $\text{true} = \lambda x. \lambda y. x$ ,  $\text{false} = \lambda x. \lambda y. y$ )

+ infinite data with a restricted set of primitives

Suitable models for higher-order programs

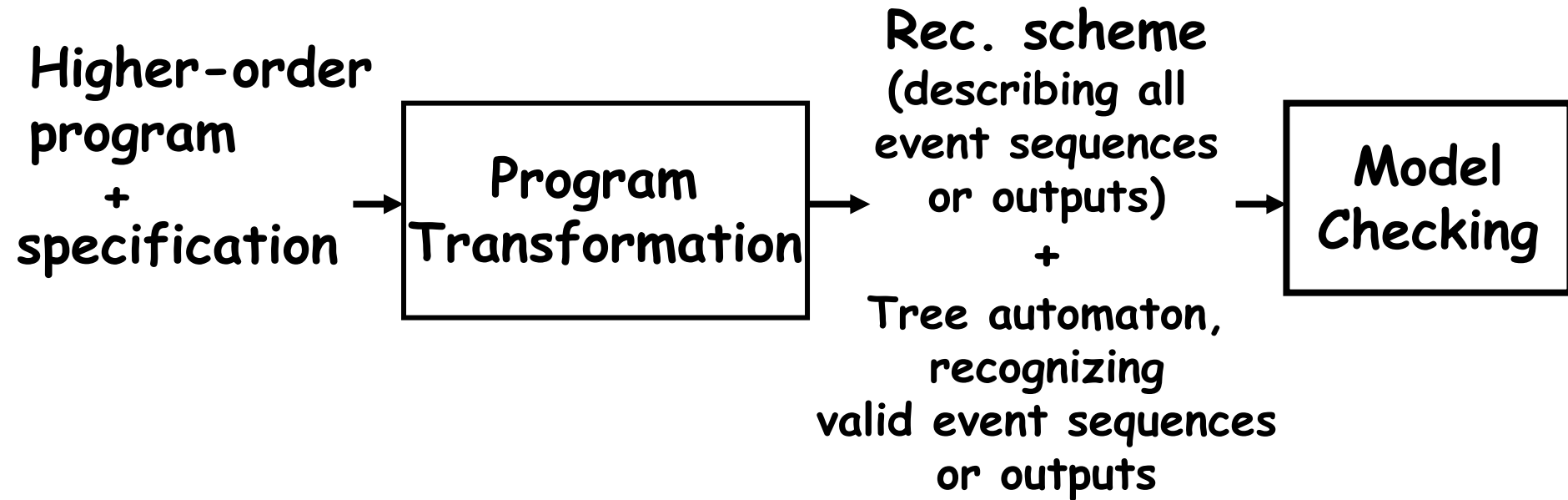


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- ◆ Higher-order recursion schemes and model checking
- ◆ From program verification to model checking of recursion schemes [K. POPL09]
- ◆ Dealing with infinite data
  - From recursion schemes to higher-order transducers [K., Tabuchi, and Unno, POPL10]
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- ◆ Conclusion

# From Program Verification to Model Checking Recursion Schemes

[K. POPL 2009]



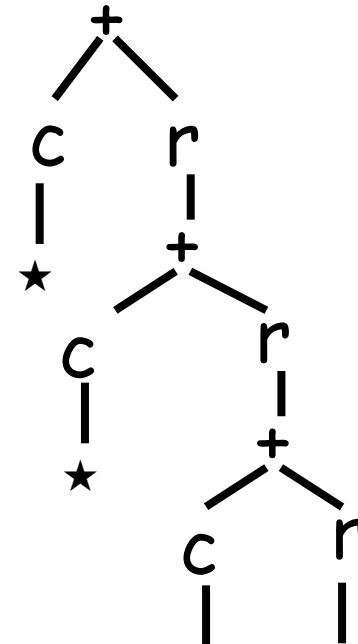
**Sound, complete, and automatic for:**

- Simply-typed  $\lambda$ -calculus + recursion  
+ **finite base types (e.g. booleans)**
- A large class of verification problems:

# From Program Verification to Model Checking: Example

```
let f(x) =  
  if * then close(x)  
  else read(x); f(x)  
in  
let y = open "foo"  
in  
  f (y)
```

$F \times k \rightarrow + (c \ k) (r(F \times k))$   
 $S \rightarrow F \ d \ \star$



Is the file "foo"  
accessed according  
to read\* close?

Is each path of the tree  
labeled by  $r^*c$ ?

From Program

continuation parameter,  
expressing how "foo" is accessed  
after the call returns

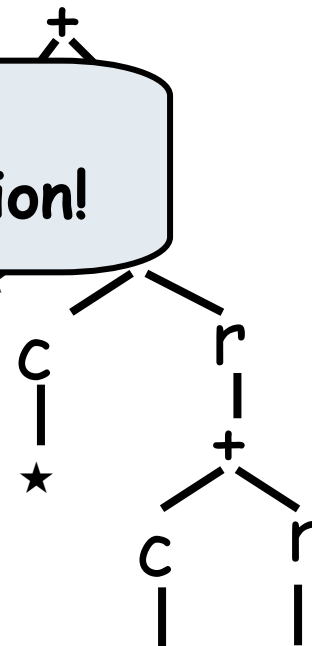
ing:

```
let f(x) =  
  if * then close(x)  
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in  
let y = open "foo"  
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  f (y)
```

$F \times k \rightarrow + (c \ k) (r(F \times k))$

$S \rightarrow F \ d \ \star$

CPS  
Transformation!



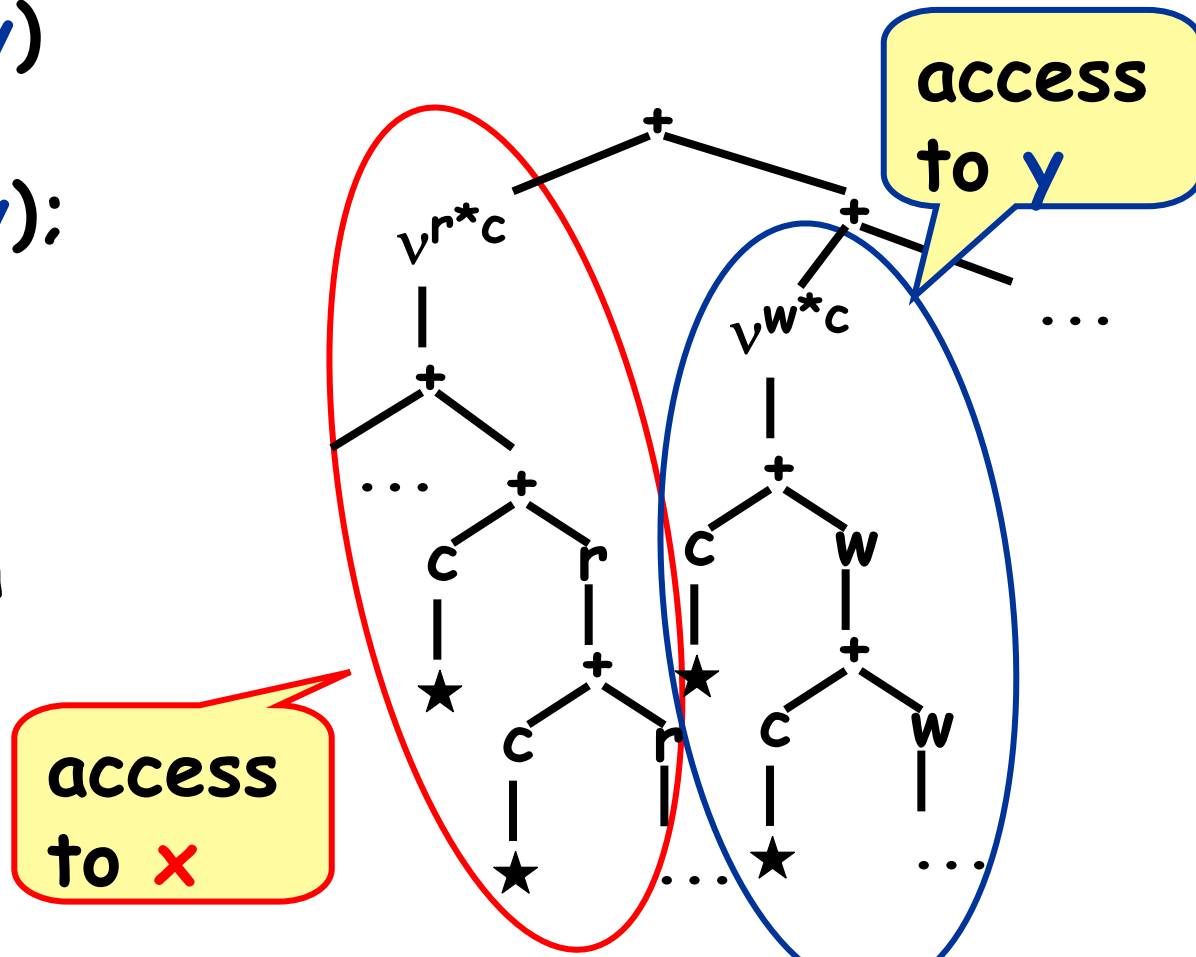
Is the file "foo"  
accessed according  
to read\* close?

Is each path of the tree  
labeled by r\*c?

# Dealing with Multiple Resources

```
let f(x, y) =  
  if * then  
    close(x); close(y)  
  else  
    read(x); write(y);  
    f(x, y)  
  
in  
let x = newr*c () in  
let y = neww*c () in  
  f (x, y)
```

recursion scheme generating  
a tree that represents  
⇒ resource-wise access sequence



# Dealing with Multiple Resources

```
let f(x, y) =  
  if * then  
    close(x); close(y)  
  else  
    read(x); write(y);  
    f(x, y)  
in
```

```
let x = newr*c () in  
let y = neww*c () in  
  f(x, y)
```

$$S \rightarrow \text{new}^{r*c} (\lambda x. \text{new}^{w*c} (\lambda y. F \ x \ y \ \star))$$
$$\text{new}^{r*c} \ k \rightarrow + (\nu^{r*c} (k \ I)) (k \ K)$$
$$I \ a \ k \rightarrow a \ k$$
$$K \ a \ k \rightarrow k$$
$$\text{close } x \ k \rightarrow x \ c \ k$$

...

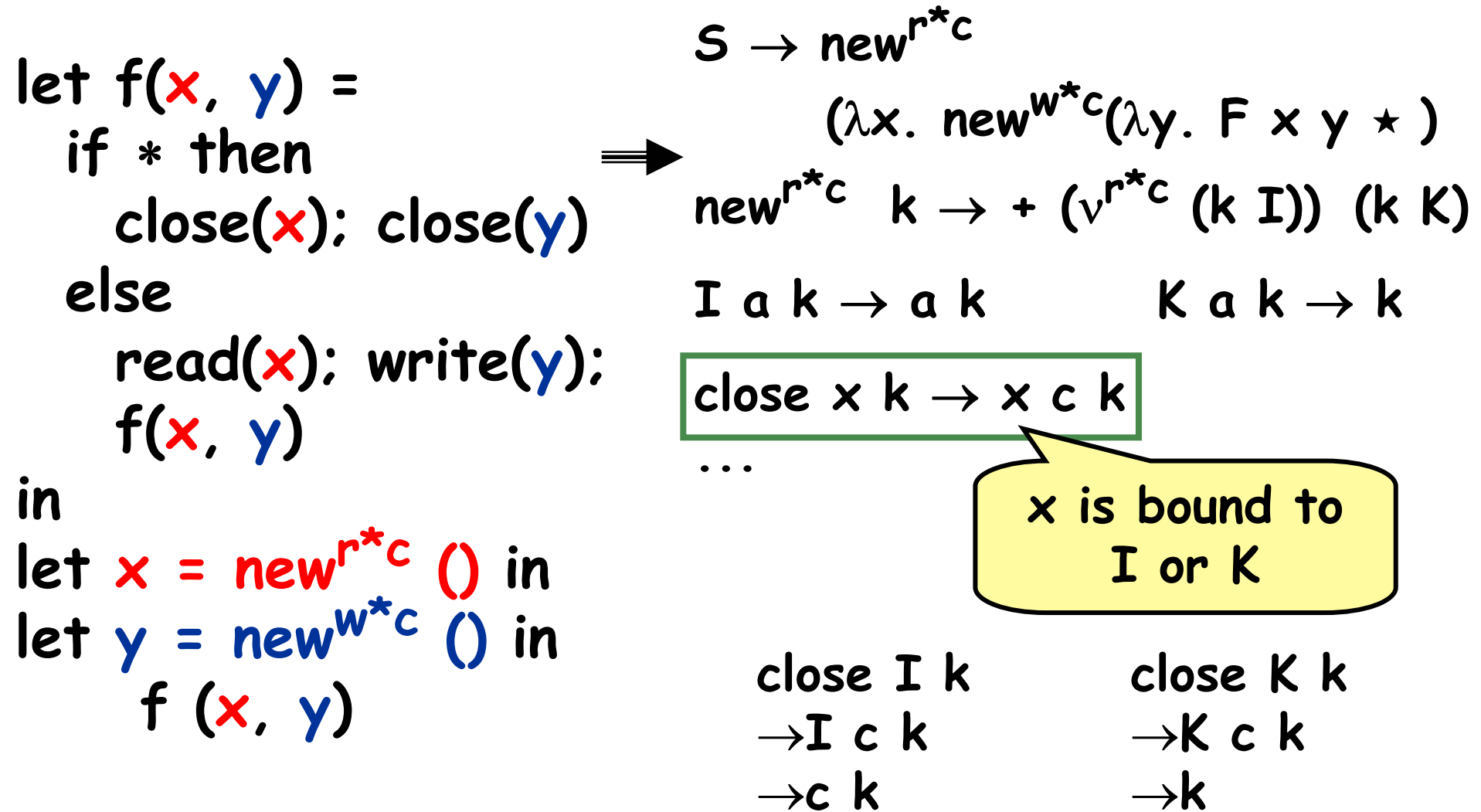
# Dealing with Multiple Resources

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let f(x, y) =  
  if * then  
    close(x); close(y)  
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    read(x); write(y);  
    f(x, y)  
in  
let x = newr*c () in  
let y = neww*c () in  
  f(x, y)
```


$$S \rightarrow \text{new}^{r*c}$$
$$(\lambda x. \text{new}^{w*c} (\lambda y. F \ x \ y \ \star))$$
$$\text{new}^{r*c} \ k \rightarrow + (v^{r*c} (k \ I)) (k \ K)$$
$$I \ a \ k \rightarrow a \ k$$
$$K \ a \ k \rightarrow k$$
$$\text{close } x \ k \rightarrow x \ c \ k$$

Non-deterministically choose  
whether or not to keep track  
of the new resource

# Dealing with Multiple Resources



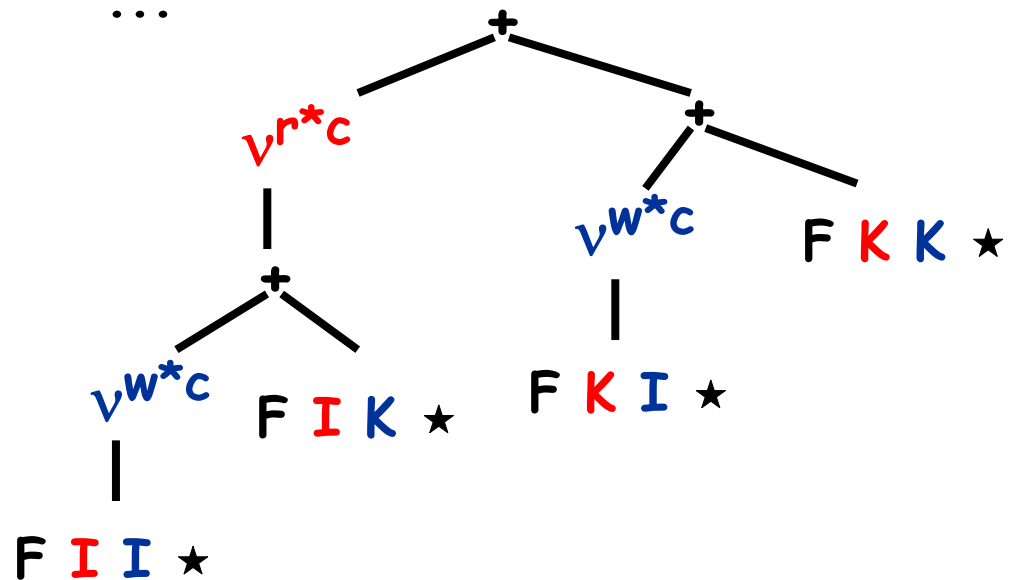


# Dealing with Multiple Resources

```

let f(x, y) =
  if * then
    close(x); close(y)
  else
    read(x); write(y);
    f(x, y)
in
let x = newr*c () in
let y = neww*c () in
  f(x, y)
  
```

$S \rightarrow \text{new}^{r*c}$   
 $(\lambda x. \text{new}^{w*c}(\lambda y. F\ x\ y\ \star))$   
 $\Rightarrow \text{new}^{r*c}\ k \rightarrow + (v^{r*c}\ (k\ I))\ (k\ K)$

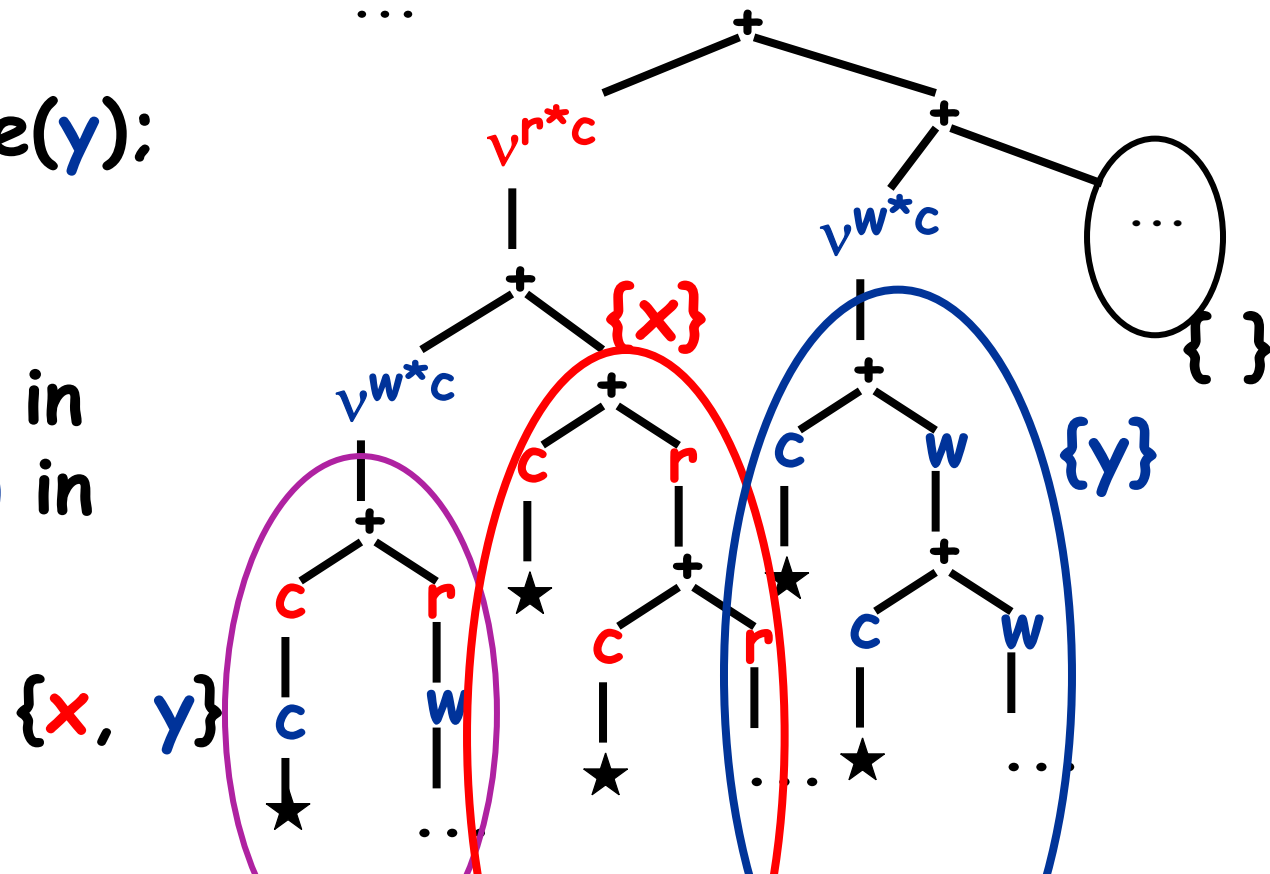


# Dealing with Multiple Resources

```

let f(x, y) =
  if * then
    close(x); close(y)
  else
    read(x); write(y);
    f(x, y)
in
let x = newr*c () in
let y = neww*c () in
  f (x, y)
  
```

$S \rightarrow \text{new}^{r*c}$   
 $(\lambda x. \text{new}^{w*c} (\lambda y. F \ x \ y \ \star))$   
 $\Rightarrow \text{new}^{r*c} \ k \rightarrow + (v^{r*c} (k \ I)) (k \ K)$



# Dealing with Multiple Resources

```

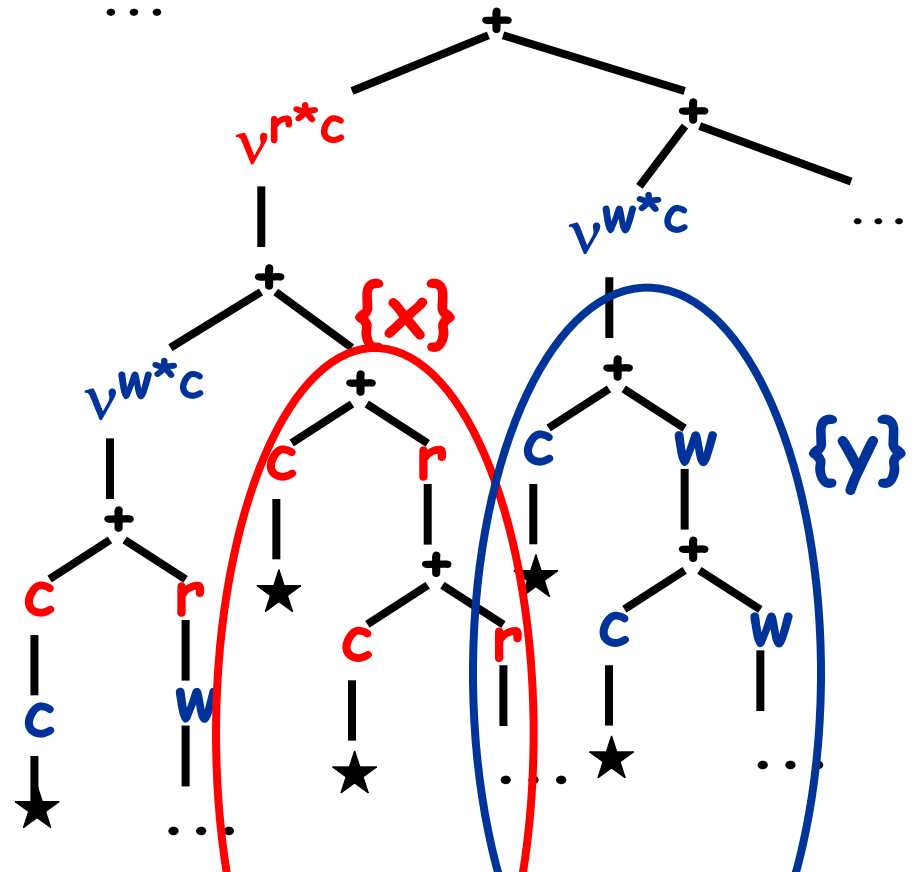
let f(x, y) =
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let y = neww*c () in
  f(x, y)

```

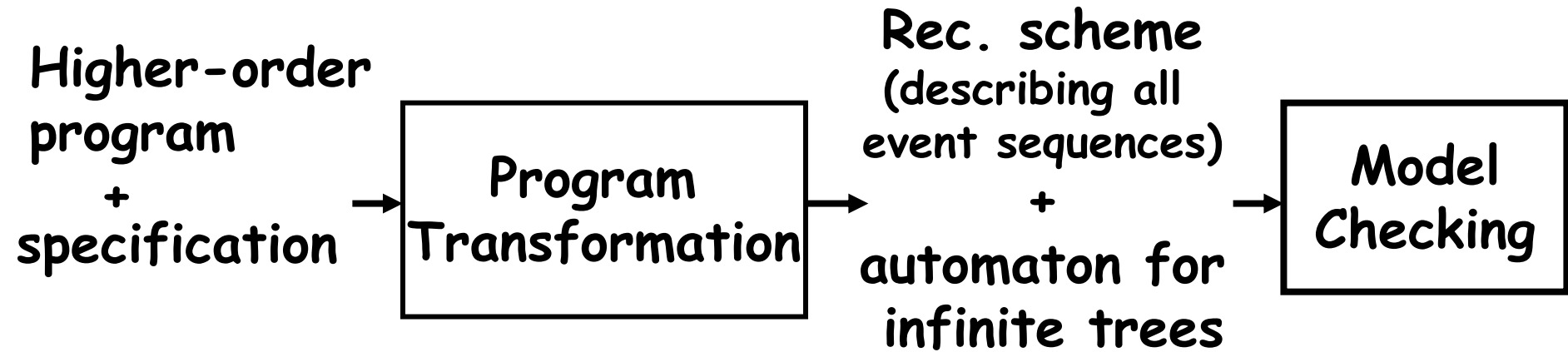
$$S \rightarrow \text{new}^{r^*c}$$
$$(\lambda x. \text{new}^{w^*c}(\lambda y. F \ x \ y \ \star))$$

$$new^{r^*c} \quad k \rightarrow + (v^{r^*c} (k \text{ I})) \quad (k \text{ K})$$

• • •



# From Program Verification to Model Checking Recursion Schemes

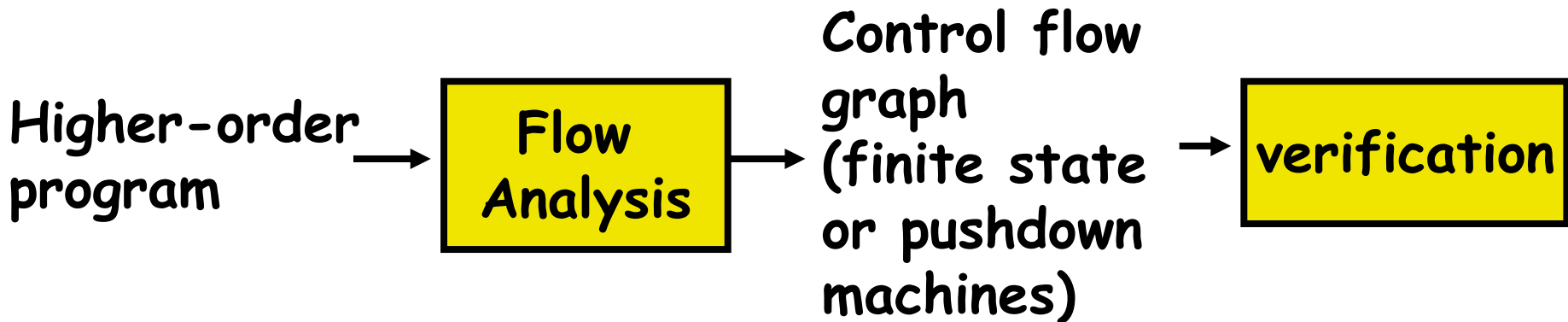


**Sound, complete, and automatic** for:

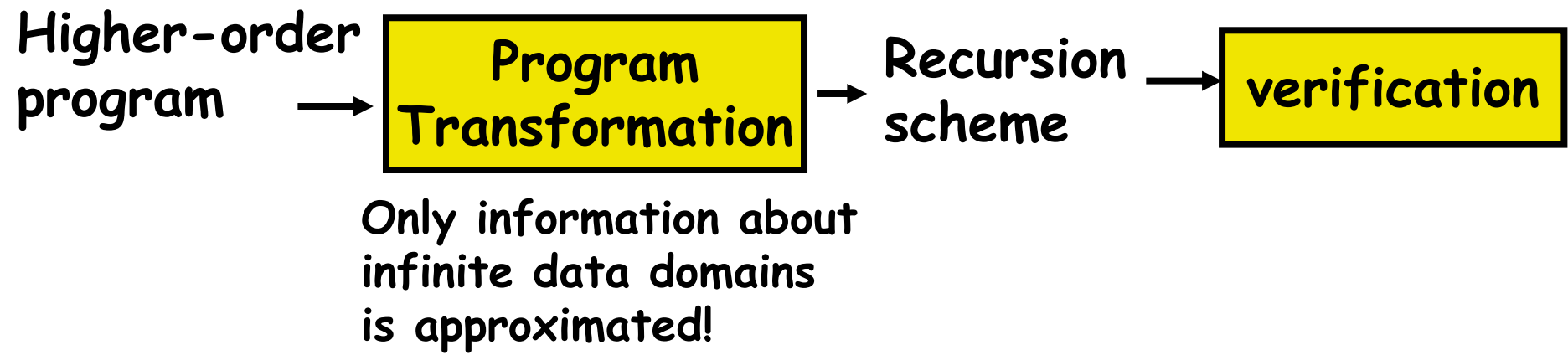
- A large class of higher-order programs:  
simply-typed  $\lambda$ -calculus + recursion  
+ finite base types (+dynamic creation of resources)
- A large class of verification problems:  
resource usage verification [Igarashi&K. POPL2002],  
reachability, flow analysis, strictness analysis, ...

# Comparison with Traditional Approach (Control Flow Analysis)

## ◆ Control flow analysis



## ◆ Our approach



# Comparison with Traditional Approach (Software Model Checking)

Program Classes	Verification Methods	
Programs with while-loops	Finite state model checking	
Programs with 1 <sup>st</sup> -order recursion	Pushdown model checking	} infinite state model checking
Higher-order functional programs	Recursion scheme model checking	

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# Goal

- ◆ Automated verification of higher-order tree-processing programs

```
fun revApp x y = revAcc y (revAcc x [])  
and revAcc x z =  
  case x of    (* list destructor *)  
    [ ] => z  
  | elem::y => revAcc y (elem::z)
```

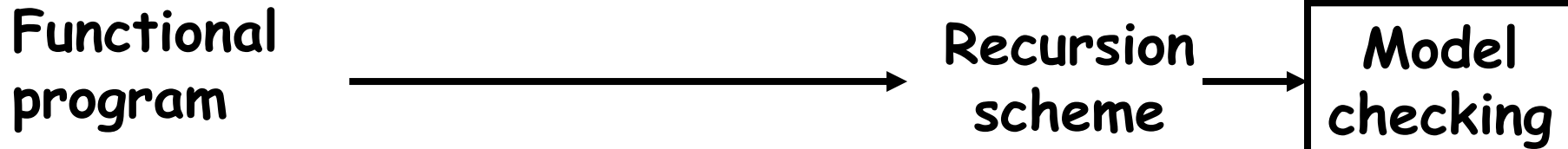
Given two sequences  $x \in a^*b^*$  and  $y \in b^*c^*$ ,  
does  $\text{revApp } x \ y$  return an element of  $c^*b^*a^*$ ?



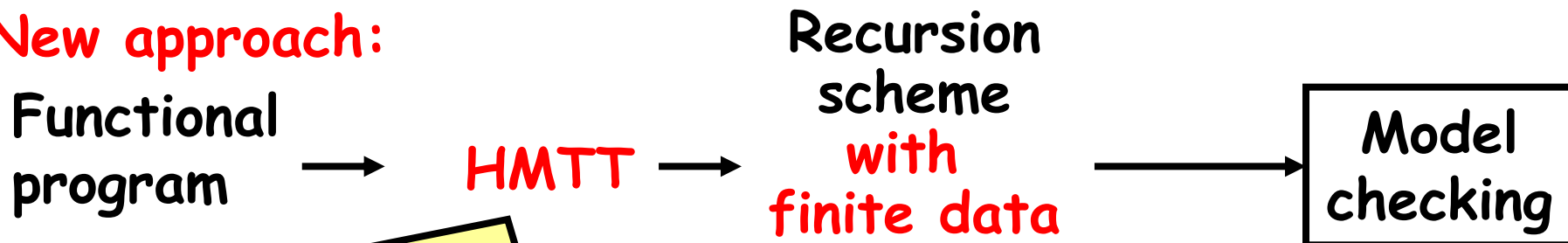
# Our Approach

- ◆ Extension of our previous verification method, by **higher-order, multi-tree transducers (HMTT)**
  - Sound, complete, automatic for a certain class of higher-order programs manipulating **lists and trees**

Previous approach [K. POPL09]:



**New approach:**



More suitable for modeling  
higher-order programs with  
**algebraic data types**

# Higher-Order, Multi-Tree Transducers (HMTT)

- ◆ Two kinds of trees
  - input trees, which can only be destructured
  - output trees, which can only be constructed
- ◆ Higher-order (recursive) functions
- ◆ Multiple inputs (unlike ordinary transducers)

`RevApp x y = RevAcc y (RevAcc x nil).`

`RevAcc x z =`

`case x of nil => z`

`| a(y) => RevAcc y (a z)`

`| b(y) => RevAcc y (b z)`

`| c(y) => RevAcc y (c z).`

# HMTT Verification Problem

Given:

HMTT  $H: \overbrace{i \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow i}^m \rightarrow o$

input specification:  $L_1, \dots, L_m$  (regular tree languages)

output specification:  $L$

does

$H : L_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow L_m \rightarrow L$

(i.e.  $\forall t_1 \in L_1, \dots, t_m \in L_m. (H \ t_1 \ \dots \ t_m) \in L$ )

hold?

Example. RevApp:  $a^*b^* \rightarrow b^*c^* \rightarrow c^*b^*a^* ?$

RevApp  $\times y = \text{RevAcc } y \ (\text{RevAcc } \times \text{ nil}).$

RevAcc  $\times z = \text{case } \times \text{ of nil} \Rightarrow z$

|  $a(y) \Rightarrow \text{RevAcc } y \ (a \ z)$

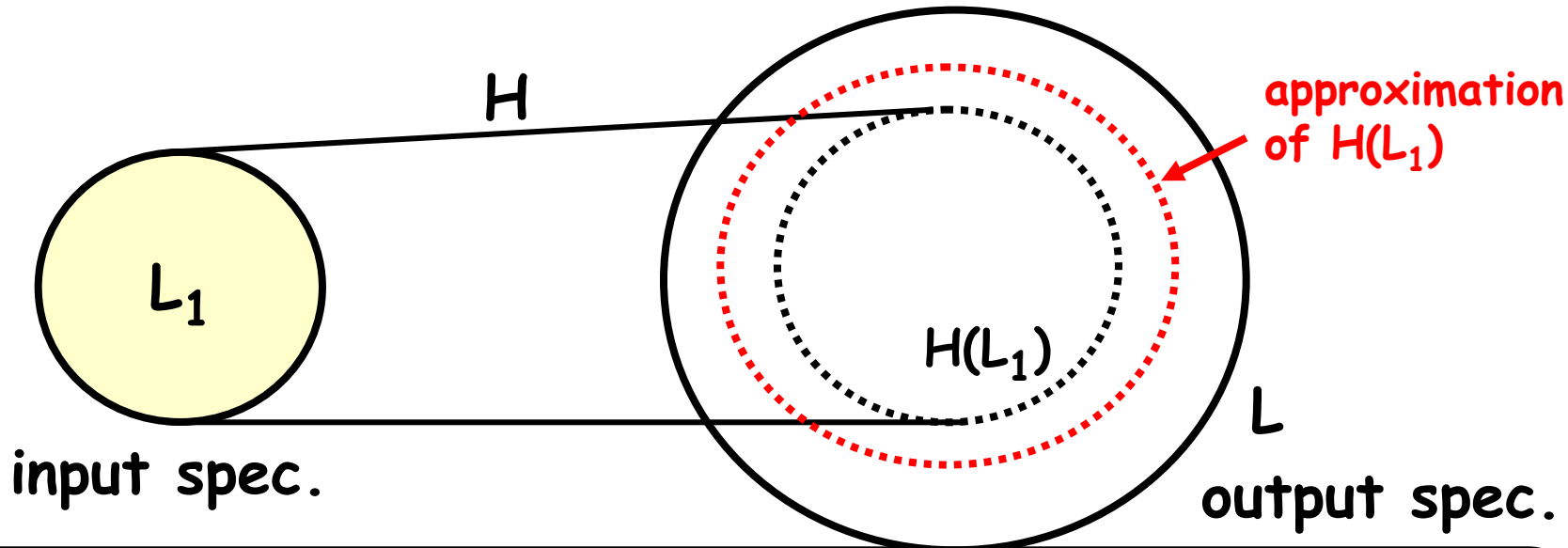
|  $b(y) \Rightarrow \text{RevAcc } y \ (b \ z)$

|  $c(y) \Rightarrow \text{RevAcc } y \ (c \ z).$

# HMTT verification method

HMTT verification problem:

$$H(L_1, \dots, L_m) \subseteq L?$$



1. Construct a recursion scheme (with finite data)  $G$  that approximates  $H(L_1, \dots, L_m)$
2. Use a higher-order model checker to decide:  
 $\text{Lang}(G) \stackrel{?}{\subseteq} L$

# From HMTT to Recursion Scheme

## Ideas:

- Construct a recursion scheme (with finite state automaton) approximating the output language
- by abstracting input trees by a finite state automaton

Ranges over  
 $\{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$

H:  $a^*b^*c^* \rightarrow c^*b^*a^*$ ?

H  $x = \text{Rev } x \ z$

Rev  $x \ z =$

case  $x$  of nil  $\Rightarrow z$   
 |  $a(y) \Rightarrow \text{Rev } y \ (a \ z)$   
 |  $b(y) \Rightarrow \text{Rev } y \ (b \ z)$   
 |  $c(y) \Rightarrow \text{Rev } y \ (c \ z).$

Rev  $x \ z \rightarrow$

case  $x$  of

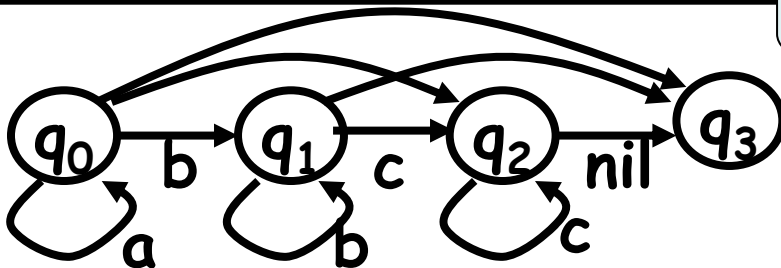
$q_0 \Rightarrow + (\text{Rev } q_0 \ (a \ z))$   
 $(\text{Rev } q_1 \ (b \ z))$   
 $(\text{Rev } q_2 \ (c \ z))$

Abstraction of

nil or  $c(y)$   
 with  $\alpha(y) = q_2$

$z$   
 $\text{Rev } q_1 \ (b \ z)$   
 $\text{Rev } q_2 \ (c \ z)$

$z$   
 |  $q_2 \Rightarrow + (\text{Rev } q_2 \ (c \ z)) \ z$



# Soundness and (In)completeness

## ◆ Soundness:

If the verification succeeds,  
HMTT satisfies the input/output specification.

## ◆ Completeness for linear HMTT:

If a linear HMTT satisfies the specification,  
the verification succeeds.

## ◆ Incompleteness:

HMTT verification is undecidable  
(so that the verification may fail even if  
the given HMTT satisfies the spec.)

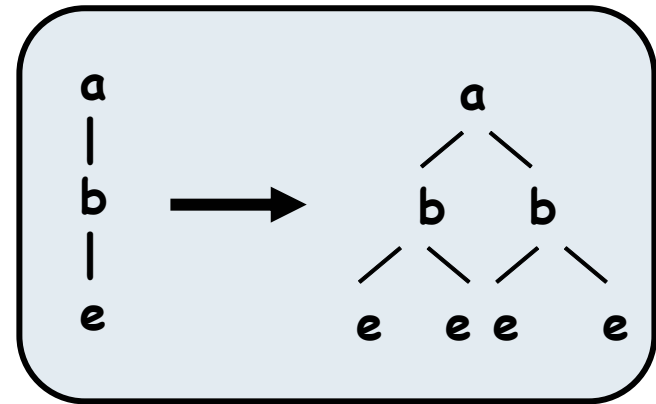
# From (deterministic) HTT [Engelfreit] to **linear** HMTT

## ◆ HTT

$$F\ e = e$$

$$F\ (a(x)) = a\ (F\ x)\ (F\ x)$$

$$F\ (b(x)) = b\ (F\ x)\ (F\ x)$$



## ◆ linear HMTT

$$F\ x = H\ x\ (\lambda y.y)$$

$$H\ z\ k =$$

case z of

$$a(x) \Rightarrow H\ x\ (\lambda y.k\ (a\ y\ y))$$

$$| b(x) \Rightarrow H\ x\ (\lambda y.k\ (b\ y\ y))$$

# Experiments

	order	rules	states	Time (msec)
MergeAdr	1	3	6	2
RemoveB	2	4	7	1
HomRep	4	10	4	29
Gapid [Tozawa]	3	12	30	87
Xml_rep1 [Tozawa]	3	8	23	3
Xhtml_id	1	1	50	86
Xhtml_div	1	2	50	39
Xhtml_a	1	2	50	243

Cannot be  
verified by  
previous  
methods

Much faster  
than  
state-of  
the art for  
HTT  
[Tozawa05]

Comparable to  
state-of  
the art for  
MTT  
[Frisch&Hosoya]

(Environment: Intel(R) Xeon(R) 3Ghz with 2GB memory)



# HomRep

$\text{HomRep } n \ s = F \ n \ (\text{Hom } (\text{Concat } B \ B) \ A) \ (\text{I2Str } s).$

$F \ n \ h \ s = \text{case } n \text{ of } \text{zero} \Rightarrow (\text{Str2O } s)$   
 $\quad \quad \quad | \text{succ}(m) \Rightarrow F \ m \ h \ (h \ s).$

$A \ x_a \ x_b \ z = x_a \ z.$

$B \ x_a \ x_b \ z = x_b \ z.$

$\text{Empty } x_a \ x_b \ z = z.$

$\text{Concat } s_1 \ s_2 \ x_a \ x_b \ z =$   
 $\quad s_1 \ x_a \ x_b \ (s_2 \ x_a \ x_b \ z).$

$\text{Hom } s_a \ s_b \ s \ x_a \ x_b \ z =$   
 $\quad s \ (s_a \ x_a \ x_b) \ (s_b \ x_a \ x_b) \ z.$

String  
operations

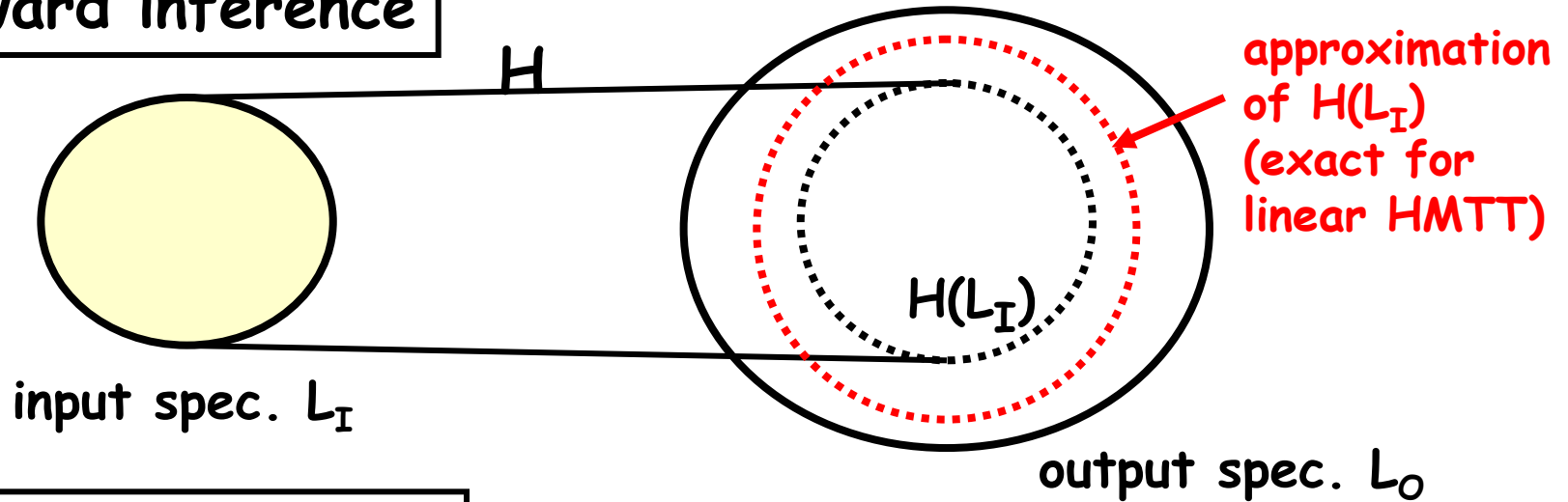
$\text{I2Str } x = \text{case } x \text{ of } e \Rightarrow \text{Empty}$   
 $\quad \quad | \ a(y) \Rightarrow \text{Concat } A \ (\text{I2Str } y)$   
 $\quad \quad | \ b(y) \Rightarrow \text{Concat } B \ (\text{I2Str } y).$

Conversion  
between  
internal string  
representation  
and trees

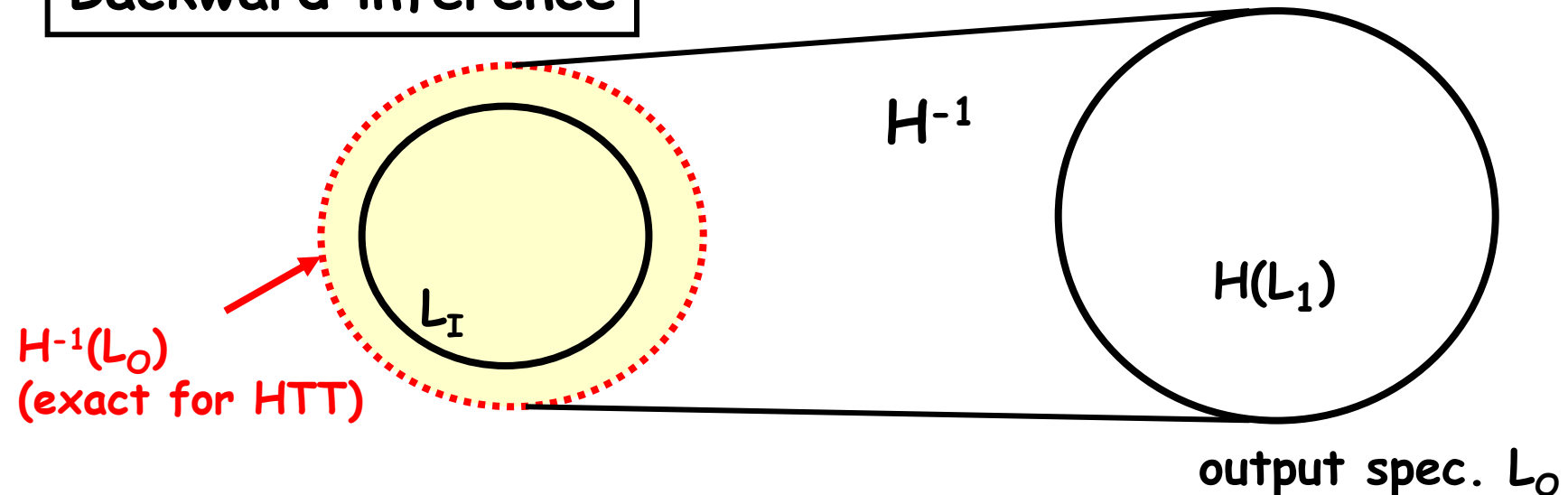
$\text{Str2O } s = s \ a \ b \ e.$

# Forward vs Backward Inference

## Forward inference



## Backward inference



# Dealing with Infinite Data Domains

- ◆ Higher-order multi-tree transducers (HMTT) to deal with algebraic data
  - HMTT verification method  
[K., Tabuchi&Unno, POPL 2010]
  - Extension to deal with arbitrary tree-processing programs [Unno, Tabuchi&K., APLAS 2010]
- ◆ Predicate abstraction and CEGAR  
(c.f. BLAST, SLAM, ...)

# Limitation of HMTT

- ◆ Strict classification of trees into input/output trees (constructed trees cannot be destructed again)

```
fun rev x =  
  case x of  
    nil => nil  
  | a(y) => app (rev y) (a nil)  
  | b(y) => app (rev y) (b nil)  
and app x y =  
  case x of  
    nil => y  
  | a(z) => a (app z y)  
  | b(z) => b (app z y)
```

# Extended HMTT [Unno et al. APLAS 2010]

◆ Allow coercion from output to input trees:

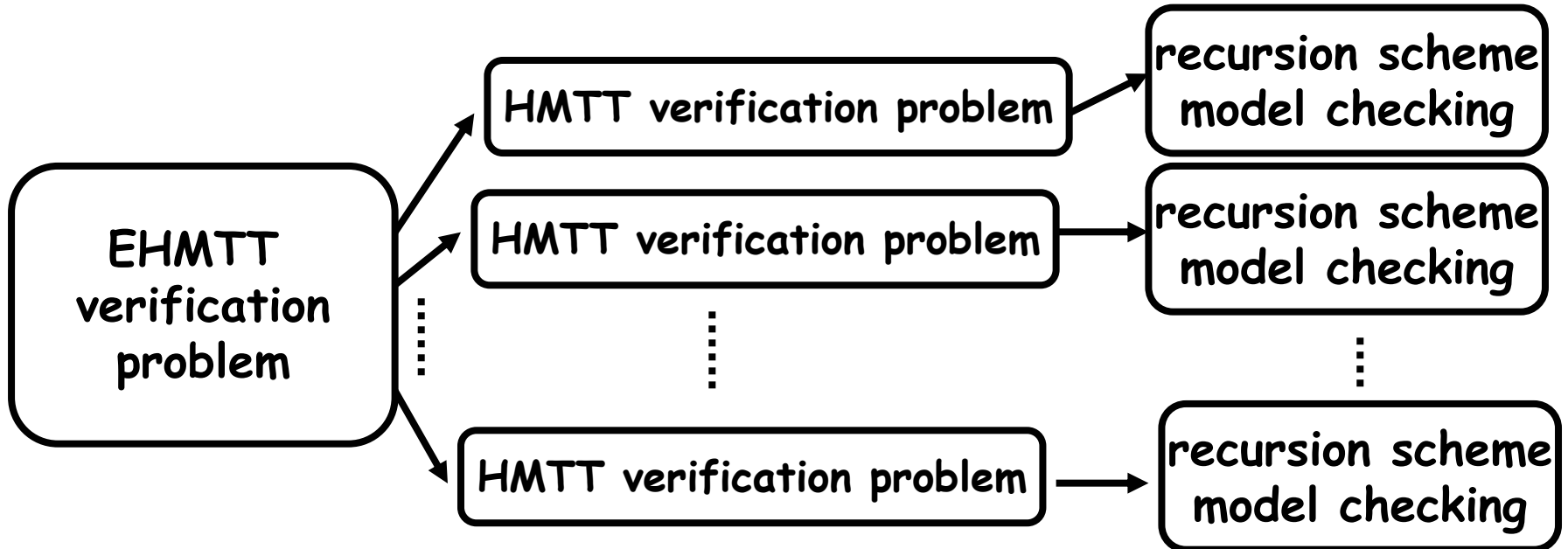
```
fun rev x =  
  case x of  
    nil    => nil  
  | a(y) => app (coerce (rev y)) (a nil)  
  | b(y) => app (coerce (rev y)) (b nil)  
and app x y =  
  case x of  
    nil => y  
  | a(z) => a (app z y)  
  | b(z) => b (app z y)
```

# Extended HMTT [Unno et al. APLAS 2010]

- ◆ Allow coercion from output to input trees  
and **requires it be annotated with invariant:**

```
fun rev x = (* rev:  $a^*b^* \rightarrow b^*a^*$  *)
  case x of
    nil => nil
  | a(y) => app (coerce $b^*a^*$  (rev y)) (a nil)
  | b(y) => app (coerce $b^*$  (rev y)) (b nil)
and app x y =
  case x of
    nil => y
  | a(z) => a (app z y)
  | b(z) => b (app z y)
```

# Verification method for Extended HMTT



# Reduction from EHMTT to HMTT verification

1. Assuming coercion annotations to be correct, verify that the output is correct.

```
fun rev x = (* rev: a*b* -> b*a* *)  
  case x of  
    nil    => nil  
  | a(y) => app (coerceb*a* (rev y)) (a nil)  
  | b(y) => app (coerceb* (rev y)) (b nil)
```



```
fun revO x = (* revO: a*b* -> b*a* *)  
  case x of  
    nil    => nil  
  | a(y) => app genb*a* (a nil)  
  | b(y) => app genb* (b nil)
```



# Reduction from EHMTT to HMTT verification

1. Assuming coercion annotations to be correct, verify that the output is correct.
2. Verify the soundness of each annotation (assuming the other coercions to be correct)

```
fun rev x = (* rev: a*b* -> b*a* *)  
  case x of nil => nil  
    | a(y) => app (coerceb*a* (rev y)) (a nil)  
    | ...
```



```
fun revC x = (* approximate trees passed to coerceb*a* *)  
  case x of nil => empty  
    | a(y) => (revO y)
```

# Reduction from EHMTT to HMTT verification

1. Assuming coercion annotations to be correct, verify that the output is correct.
2. Verify the soundness of each annotation (assuming the other coercions to be correct)

```
fun rev x = (* rev: a*b* -> b*a* *)  
  case x of nil => nil  
    | a(y) => app (coerceb*a* (rev y)) (a nil)  
    | ...
```



```
fun revC x = (* approximate trees passed to coerceb*a* *)  
  case x of nil => empty  
    | a(y) => union (revO y) (revC y)
```

# Reduction from EHMTT to HMTT verification

1. Assuming coercion annotations to be correct, verify that the output is correct.
2. Verify the soundness of each annotation (assuming the other coercions to be correct)

```
fun rev x = (* rev: a*b* -> b*a* *)  
  case x of nil => nil  
    | a(y) => app (coerceb*a* (rev y)) (a nil)  
    | ...
```



```
fun revC x = (* approximate trees passed to coerceb*a* *)  
  case x of nil => empty  
    | a(y) => union (union (revO y) (revC y))  
      (appC genb*a* (a nil))
```

# Correctness Issues

## ◆ Soundness:

A verified (EHMTT) program satisfies the input/output specification

## ◆ Incompleteness:

There is a program that is correct but cannot be verified by our method

Sources of incompleteness:

- Incompleteness of HMTT verification
- Coercion annotations may not be strong enough.  
(c.f. loop invariant annotations for Hoare logic)

# Experiments

	Programs	#C	#Fun	Size	T <sub>Red</sub>	T <sub>MC</sub>
String processing	Reverse	2	3	32	1	4
	Isort	1	4	29	1	3
	Msort	4	8	131	2	224
	HomRep-Rev	1	12	90	1	31
XML transform.	Split	1	6	126	3	132
	Bib2Html	1	13	493	52	52
	XMarkQ1	1	12	454	29	168
	XMarkQ2	2	9	461	77	92
	Gapid-Html	1	17	374	2	112
Web applications	JWIG-guess	1	6	465	588	50
	JWIG-cal	2	12	475	72	73
Program transform.	MinCaml-K	8	19	605	5	647

# Experiments on Buggy Programs

(milli-secs.)

Programs	#C	#Fun	Size	T <sub>Red</sub>	T <sub>MC</sub>
Split-e	1	6	126	3	27
JWIG-guess-e	1	6	465	586	49
JWIG-cal-e	2	12	475	2	55

Correctly  
Rejected!

# Related Work

## ◆ Ong and Ramsay, POPL2011

- another approach to verification of tree processing programs via higher-order model checking
- fully automated (c.f. coercion annotations in our approach)
- abstracting input trees by patterns
- counterexample-guided (pattern) abstraction refinement

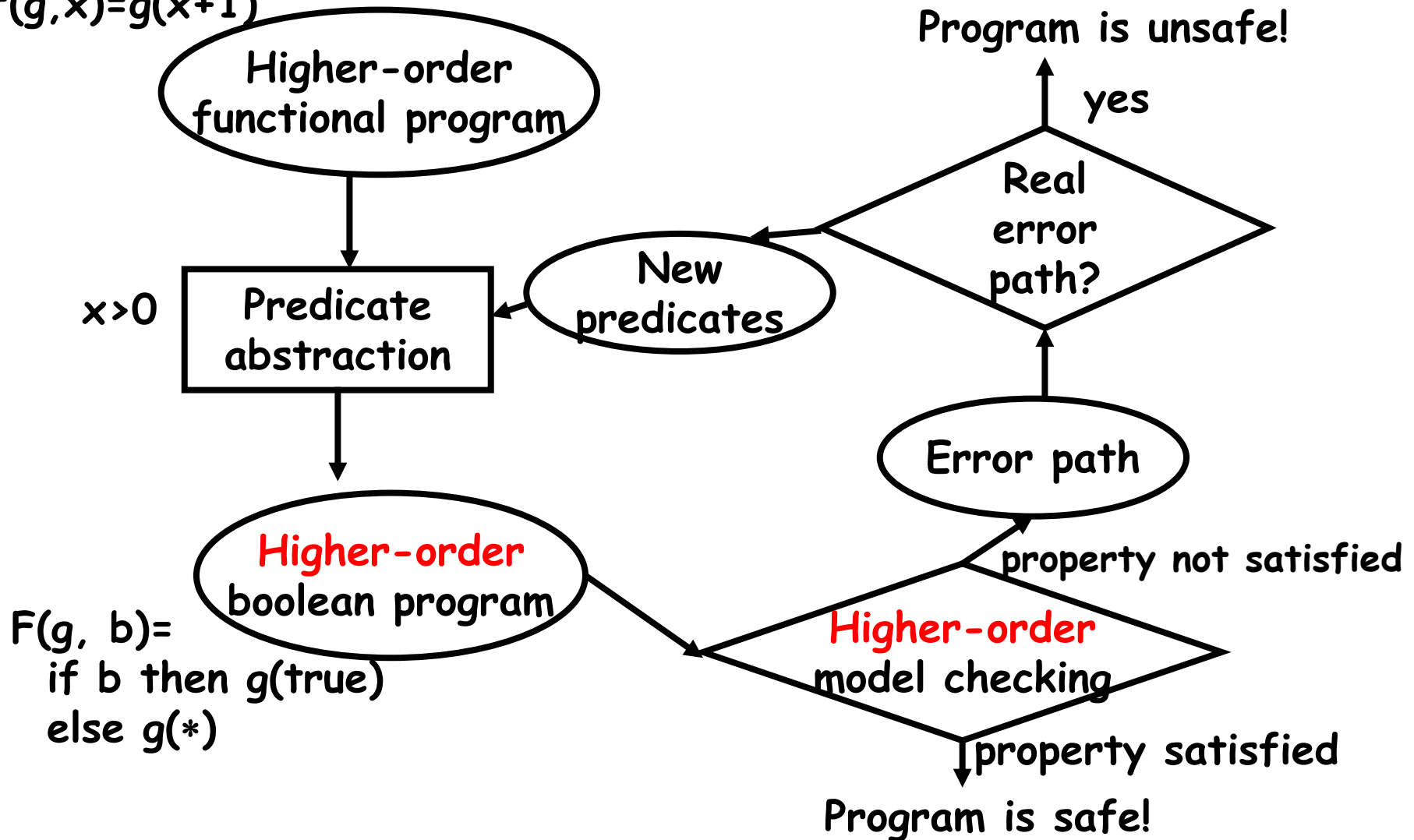
# Outline

- ◆ Higher-order recursion schemes and model checking
- ◆ From program verification to model checking of recursion schemes [K. POPL09]
- ◆ Dealing with infinite data
  - From recursion schemes to higher-order transducers [K., Tabuchi, and Unno, POPL10]
  - Predicate abstraction and CEGAR [K., Sato, Unno, 2010]
- ◆ Model checking algorithms for recursion schemes [K. PPDP09]
- ◆ Conclusion



# Predicate Abstraction and CEGAR for Higher-Order Model Checking

$f(g, x) = g(x+1)$



$F(g, b) =$   
if  $b$  then  $g(\text{true})$   
else  $g(*)$

# What are challenges?

## ◆ Predicate abstraction

- How to choose predicates for each term, in such a way that the resulting HOBP is consistent?

E.g.      `fun f g x = ... g (x+1) ...`  
            `fun h y z = ...`  
            `fun main() = ... f (h 0) u ...`

The same predicate should be used for `z` and `u+1`.

## ◆ CEGAR

- How to find new predicates to abstract each term to guarantee progress (i.e. any spurious counterexample is eliminated)?

# Our solutions

## ◆ Predicate abstraction

*Abstraction types to express abstraction interface:*

E.g.  $f: (x:\text{int}[\lambda x.x>0]) \rightarrow \text{int}[\lambda y.y>x]$

Assuming the argument  $n$  is abstracted using the predicate  $\lambda x.x>0$ , the abstraction of  $f$  should return the value of  $f(n)$  abstracted by  $\lambda y.y>n$ .

$f(x) = \text{if } x>0 \text{ then } x+1 \text{ else } \dots$   
 $\Rightarrow f'(b) = \text{if } b \text{ then true else } \dots$

## ◆ CEGAR

*Reduction from abstraction type finding problem to a refinement type inference problem for SHP (straightline higher-order program).*

# Example (predicate abstraction)

```
let f x g = g(x+1) in
let h z y = assert(y>z) in
let k n = if n>=0 then f n (h n) else ( ) in
k m
```



$f: (x:\text{int}[]) \rightarrow (\text{int}[\lambda y. y > x] \rightarrow \star) \rightarrow \star$   
 $h: (x:\text{int}[]) \rightarrow \text{int}[\lambda y. y > x] \rightarrow \star$   
 $k: \text{int}[] \rightarrow \star$

```
let f ( ) g = g(true) in
let h ( ) b = assert(b) in
let k ( ) = if * then f ( ) (h ( )) else ( ) in
k( )
```

# Experiments

	cycle	Time (sec)
mc91	2	0.07
ackermann	3	0.15
a-cppr	6	3.40
a-max	5	4.78
l-zipmap	4	0.20
l-zipunzip	3	0.12
repeat	3	0.15
a-max-e	2	0.13

Arrays encoded by:

```
let mk_array n i =  
  assert(0<=i && i<n); 0
```

```
let update i n a x =  
  a(i);
```

```
let a' j = if i=j then x else a(i)  
in a'
```

(Environment: Intel(R) Xeon(R) 3Ghz with 8GB memory)

# FAQ

**Does it scale?**

(It shouldn't, because of  $n$ -EXPTIME completeness)

**Answer:**

Don't know yet.

But there is a good hope it does!

# Does higher-order model checking scale?

## Good News

- + Fixed-parameter PTIME
- + Use the hybrid algorithm
- + Programs with worst-case behavior show an advantage of higher-order programs, rather than disadvantage of HO model checking

## Bad News

- $n$ -EXPTIME completeness
- Huge constant factor
- Hybrid algorithm has bad worst-case complexity!

# Recursion schemes generating $a^{2^m} c$

Order-1:

$$S \rightarrow F_1 c, F_1 x \rightarrow F_2(F_2 x), \dots, F_m x \rightarrow a(a x)$$

Order-0:

$$S \rightarrow a G_1, G_1 \rightarrow a G_2, \dots, G_k \rightarrow c \quad (k=2^m)$$

Exponential time algorithm for order-1

$\approx$

Polynomial time algorithm for order-0



# Does higher-order model checking scale?

## Good News

- + Fixed-parameter PTIME
- + Use the hybrid algorithm
- + Programs with worst-case behavior show an advantage of higher-order programs, rather than disadvantage of HO model checking
- + There is a realistic, fixed-parameter PTIME algorithm! (see our forthcoming paper)

## Bad News

- $n$ -EXPTIME completeness
- Huge constant factor
- Hybrid algorithm has bad worst-case complexity!

# Recursion schemes generating $a^{2^m} c$

Order-1:

$$S \rightarrow F_1 c, F_1 x \rightarrow F_2(F_2 x), \dots, F_m x \rightarrow a(a x)$$

Order-0:

$$S \rightarrow a G_1, G_1 \rightarrow a G_2, \dots, G_k \rightarrow c \quad (k=2^m)$$

Polynomial time algorithm for order-1

>>

Polynomial time algorithm for order-0

# FAQ

**Does it scale?**

(It shouldn't, because of  $n$ -EXPTIME completeness)

**Answer:**

Don't know yet.

But there is a good hope it does!

# Conclusion

- ◆ New program verification technique based on model checking recursion schemes
  - Many attractive features
    - Sound, complete, and fully automatic for certain classes of higher-order programs and verification problems
  - Many interesting and challenging topics

# Challenges

- ◆ A more efficient algorithm for higher-order model checking
- ◆ A software model checker for ML/Haskell
- ◆ Other applications of finite-state/pushdown automata that can be extended to higher-order pushdown automata (or recursion schemes)  
(e.g. extension of regular model checking?)
- ◆ Extension of the decidability of higher-order model checking ( $\text{Tree}(G) \models \varphi$ )
- ◆ An (incomplete) algorithm for model checking of recursion schemes with advanced (e.g. recursive) types

# References

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From program verification to model-checking, and typing
- ◆ K.&Ong, Complexity of model checking recursion schemes for fragments of the modal mu-calculus, ICALP09  
Complexity of model checking
- ◆ K.&Ong, A type system equivalent to modal mu-calculus model-checking of recursion schemes, LICS09  
From model-checking to type checking
- ◆ K., Model-checking higher-order functions, PPDP09  
Type checking (= model-checking) algorithm
- ◆ K., Tabuchi & Unno, Higher-order multi-parameter tree transducers and recursion schemes for program verification, POPL10 Extension to transducers and its applications
- ◆ Tsukada & K., Untyped recursion schemes and infinite intersection types, FoSSaCS 10 Extension to deal with more advanced types
- ◆ Unno, Tabuchi & K., ..., APLAS 2010  
Extension of POPL10 work to deal with arbitrary tree-processing programs