

Satisfiability Checking

Interval Constraint Propagation

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Motivation

We consider input formulae φ from the theory of **quantifier-free nonlinear real arithmetic** (QFNRA):

$$\begin{array}{ll} p & := \text{const} \mid x \mid (p + p) \mid (p - p) \mid (p \cdot p) \\ c & := p < 0 \mid p = 0 \\ \varphi & := c \mid (\varphi \wedge \varphi) \mid \neg \varphi \end{array}$$

polynomials
(polynomial) constraints
QFNRA formulas

$\text{const} \in \mathbb{Q}$, $x \in \text{Var}(\varphi)$ (variables appearing in φ) take real values from \mathbb{R}

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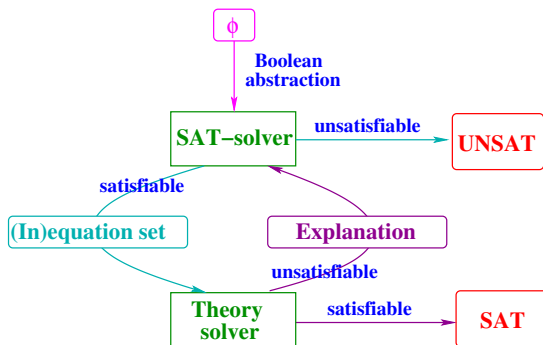
We consider input formulae φ from the theory of **quantifier-free nonlinear real arithmetic** (QFNRA):

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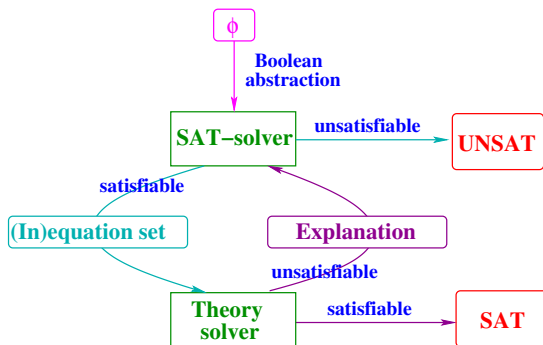
$\text{const} \in \mathbb{Q}$, $x \in \text{Var}(\varphi)$ (variables appearing in φ) take real values from \mathbb{R}

- Best known methods for solving QFNRA problems have exponential complexity \rightarrow hard to solve
- Approaches for solving QFNRA:
 - ICP
 - Virtual substitution (VS)
 - Cylindrical algebraic decomposition (CAD)
 - Gröbner bases

Interval constraint propagation (ICP) in SMT



Interval constraint propagation (ICP) in SMT



Interval constraint propagation:

- Incomplete method
- Cheap reduction of the search space

$$\mathbb{R} = (-\infty; +\infty)$$

Definition (Interval)

Intervals I are subsets of \mathbb{R} of the form

- $[\ell; u] = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid \ell \leq x \leq u\}, \ell, u \in \mathbb{R}$
- $[\ell; u) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid \ell \leq x < u\}, \ell \in \mathbb{R}, u \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$
- $(\ell; u] = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid \ell < x \leq u\}, \ell \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty\}, u \in \mathbb{R}$
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where ℓ is called the **lower bound** and u the **upper bound** of I . Let \mathbb{I} be the set of all intervals.

For simplicity, in the following we consider intervals of the form $I = [\ell, u]$, $[\ell, \infty)$ and $(-\infty, u]$ only.

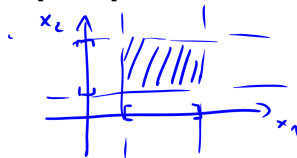
Definition (Interval diameter)

Width/diameter of interval $I = [\ell, u]$: $D_I = u - \ell$.

Definition (Interval box)

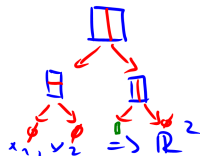
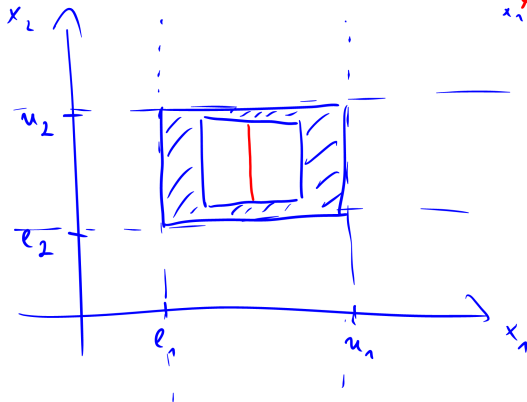
n -dimensional box $B = [\ell_1; u_1] \times \dots \times [\ell_n; u_n] \in \mathbb{I}^n$.

Let in the following $A = [\ell_a, u_a]$ and $B = [\ell_b, u_b]$ be ^{non-empty} intervals from \mathbb{I} .



Basic interval arithmetic

Idea: Extend real arithmetic to intervals.



Example

$$x = y$$

$$x \in [1, 2]$$

$$y \in [0, 4]$$

$$B = [1, 2] \times [0, 4]$$

$$\Rightarrow y \in [1, 2]$$

$$x = y^2$$

$$\Rightarrow y \in [1, \sqrt{2}]$$

$$x = y + z$$

Basic interval arithmetic

Idea: Extend real arithmetic to intervals.

- Constants and variables are interval-valued
- Operations maintain all correct solutions

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} z = x \cdot y \\ y = 1 \end{array} \right\} z = x$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} z = x \cdot y \\ y = [0; 2] \end{array} \right\} z = [0; 2] \cdot x$$

Operations:
+ , - , · , :

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Example (Interval Addition)

$$[-1; 5] + [1; 4] = [0; 9]$$

$$A + B \supseteq \{c \in \mathbb{R} \mid c = a + b, a \in A, b \in B\}$$

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Definition (Interval addition)

$$A + B = [l_a + l_b, u_a + u_b]$$

$$A = [l_a, u_a] \quad B = [l_b, u_b]$$

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Definition (Interval subtraction)

$$A - B = [l_a - u_b, u_a - l_b]$$

$$A - B = \{a - b \mid a \in A, b \in B\} \Rightarrow \text{exact}$$

Example (Subtraction)

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Definition (Interval subtraction)

$$A - B = [\ell_a - u_b; u_a - \ell_b]$$

Example (Multiplication)

$$[-1; 5] \cdot [1; 4] = \begin{matrix} [-4; 20] \\ \uparrow \quad \uparrow \\ -1 \cdot 4 \quad 5 \cdot 4 \end{matrix}$$

$$[1; 2] \cdot [2; 3] = [1 \cdot 2; 2 \cdot 3] = [2; 6]$$

$$[-1; 2] \cdot [2; 3] = [-1 \cdot 3; 2 \cdot 3] = [-3; 6]$$

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Example (Multiplication)

$$[-1; 5] \cdot [1; 4] = [-4; 20]$$

$$[-2; 3] \cdot 4 = \cancel{[-2; 3]} + \cancel{[4]} = [-8; 12] \quad [-2; 3] \cdot [-4; -4] = [-12; 8]$$

Definition (Interval multiplication)

Basic interval arithmetic

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Example (Multiplication)

$$[-1; 5] \cdot [1; 4] = [-4; 20]$$

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Definition (Interval multiplication)

$$A \cdot B = [\min(\ell_a \cdot \ell_b, \ell_a \cdot u_b, u_a \cdot \ell_b, u_a \cdot u_b); \max(\ell_a \cdot \ell_b, \ell_a \cdot u_b, u_a \cdot \ell_b, u_a \cdot u_b)]$$

Basic interval arithmetic

Special case of multiplication: Square

Basic interval arithmetic

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Example (Square)

$$[-1; 5]^2 =$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [-1; 5] & \cdot & [-1; 5] = [-5; 25] \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ x & & y \\ & & \uparrow \\ & & x \cdot y \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} x & & x \\ & & [-0; 25) \end{array}$$

Basic interval arithmetic

Special case of multiplication: Square

Example (Square)

$$[-1; 5]^2 = [0; 25]$$

Definition (Interval square)

Squaring an interval can only result in positive values:

$$A \in \mathbb{I} : A^2 = (A \cdot A) \cap [0; +\infty)$$

$$[l; u] \cdot [l; u]$$

$$[l; u]^2$$

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Example (Division)

$$[2; 3] \div [4; 5] = \left[\frac{2}{5} ; \frac{3}{4} \right] = [2; 3] \cdot \frac{1}{[4; 5]} = [2; 3] \cdot \left[\frac{1}{5} ; \frac{1}{4} \right]$$

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$$[2; 3] \div [4; 5] = [2; 3] \cdot \frac{1}{B} = [2; 3] \cdot [\frac{1}{5}; \frac{1}{4}] = [\frac{2}{5}; \frac{3}{4}]$$

Definition (Interval division ($0 \notin B$))

$$A / B = [\frac{l_a}{u_b}, \frac{u_a}{l_b}]$$

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Definition (Interval division ($0 \notin B$))

$$A, B \in \mathbb{I} : A \div B = A \cdot \frac{1}{B} = A \cdot [\frac{1}{u_b}; \frac{1}{\ell_b}]$$

Handwritten example: $[-1; 2] \div [2; 4] = [-1; 2] \cdot [\frac{1}{4}; \frac{1}{2}] = [-\frac{1}{2}; 1]$

Problem: Division A/B (B may contain 0):

Extended interval arithmetic

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Example (Division by zero)

$$[1; 3] \div [-2; 3] = [1; 3] \cdot \underbrace{\left[\frac{1}{3}; \frac{1}{-2}\right]}_{\phi!} = \phi$$

Problem: Division A/B (B may contain 0):

Example (Division by zero)

$$[1; 3] \div [-2; 3] = [1; 3] \cdot [\frac{1}{3}; -\frac{1}{2}] \rightarrow \text{invalid bounds}$$

Extended interval arithmetic

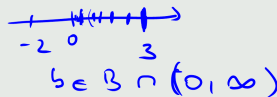
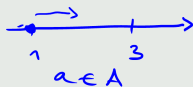
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Boundwise analysis on divisors:

- $\frac{1}{3} \in A/B$
- $\frac{1}{2} \in A/B$
- $\frac{1}{0.5} \in A/B$



$$\frac{a}{b} < \frac{a+\Delta}{b}$$

$$\Delta > 0$$

$$\lim_{b \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{b} \rightarrow \infty$$

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\rightarrow maximal divisor $b = 3 \rightarrow [\frac{1}{3}; \infty)$

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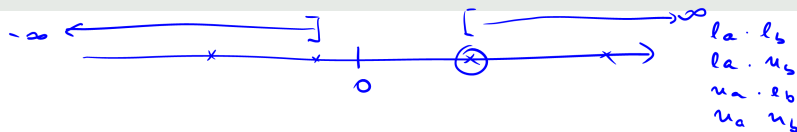
■ $\frac{1}{0.5} \in A/B$

■ $\frac{1}{-2} \in A/B$

■ $\frac{1}{-1} \in A/B$

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\rightarrow maximal divisor $b = 3 \rightarrow [\frac{1}{3}; \infty)$ \rightarrow minimal divisor $b = -2 \rightarrow (-\infty; -\frac{1}{2}]$

Problem: Division A/B (B may contain 0): $0 \notin A \quad A=[l_a, u_a]$

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\rightarrow maximal divisor $b = 3 \rightarrow [\frac{1}{3}; \infty) \quad \rightarrow$ minimal divisor $b = -2 \rightarrow (-\infty; -\frac{1}{2}]$

Introduce new rules for extended interval division such that:

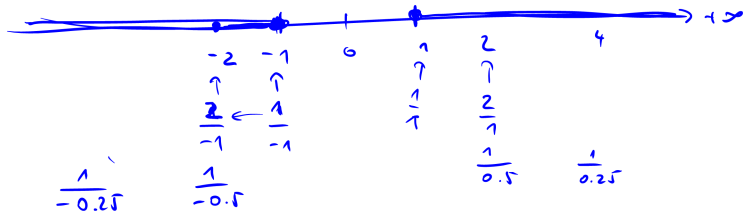
$$[1; 3]/[-2; 3] = (-\infty; \frac{1}{-2}] \cup [\frac{1}{3}; +\infty)$$

Note: Resulting interval may contain a gap!

$$\begin{array}{ll} 1 \cdot (-2) & \rightarrow -2 \Rightarrow \text{largest neg.} \\ 1 \cdot (3) & \rightarrow 3 \Rightarrow \text{smallest pos.} \\ 3 \cdot (-2) & \rightarrow -6 \\ 3 \cdot 3 & \rightarrow 9 \end{array}$$

$0 \notin A$

$$\underbrace{[1, 2]}_A \div \underbrace{[-1, 1]}_B$$



Interval constraint propagation

Assume a set of QFNRA constraints (as theory solvers get in SMT solving) and some interval bounds for the variables in the constraints.

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Use [interval constraint propagation](#) to sharpen bounds:

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$$x \in [1; 3], y \in [1, 2], c_1 : y = x, c_2 : y = x^2$$

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$$\begin{aligned}x &\in [1; 3], y \in [1; 2], c_1 : y = x, c_2 : y = x^2 \\c_{2,x} : x &= \pm\sqrt{y} \rightarrow x = \pm\sqrt{[1; 2]} = [-\sqrt{2}; -1] \cup [1; \sqrt{2}] \rightarrow \\&x \in [1; 3] \cap ([-\sqrt{2}; -1] \cup [1; \sqrt{2}]) = [1; \sqrt{2}] \\c_{1,y} : y &= x \rightarrow y = [1; \sqrt{2}] \rightarrow y \in [1; 2] \cap [1; \sqrt{2}] = [1; \sqrt{2}]\end{aligned}$$

Contraction sequence:

$$\begin{aligned}x : [1; 3] &\xrightarrow{c_{2,x}} [1; \sqrt{2}] \xrightarrow{c_{2,x}} [1; \sqrt[4]{2}] \xrightarrow{c_{2,x}} [1; \sqrt[8]{2}] \xrightarrow{c_{2,x}} \dots \rightsquigarrow [1; 1] \\y : [1; 2] &\xrightarrow{c_{1,y}} [1; \sqrt{2}] \xrightarrow{c_{1,y}} [1; \sqrt[4]{2}] \xrightarrow{c_{1,y}} [1; \sqrt[8]{2}] \xrightarrow{c_{1,y}} \dots \rightsquigarrow [1; 1]\end{aligned}$$

Interval constraint propagation

Assume a set of QFNRA constraints (as theory solvers get in SMT solving) and some interval bounds for the variables in the constraints.

Use **interval constraint propagation** to sharpen bounds:

- Insert current bounds for all except one variable in one constraint
- Apply interval arithmetic to gain new bounds
- Update bounds via intersection

Example (Propagation)

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We define a pair of constraint and variable as a **contraction candidate (CC)**.

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$$v_1 + z = 0 \wedge v_1 = x^2 \cdot y$$

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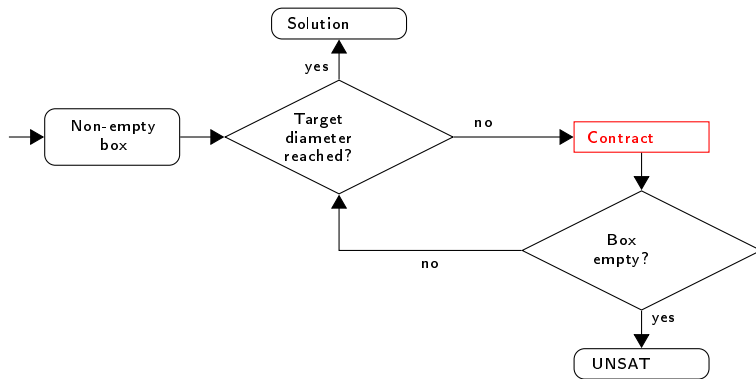
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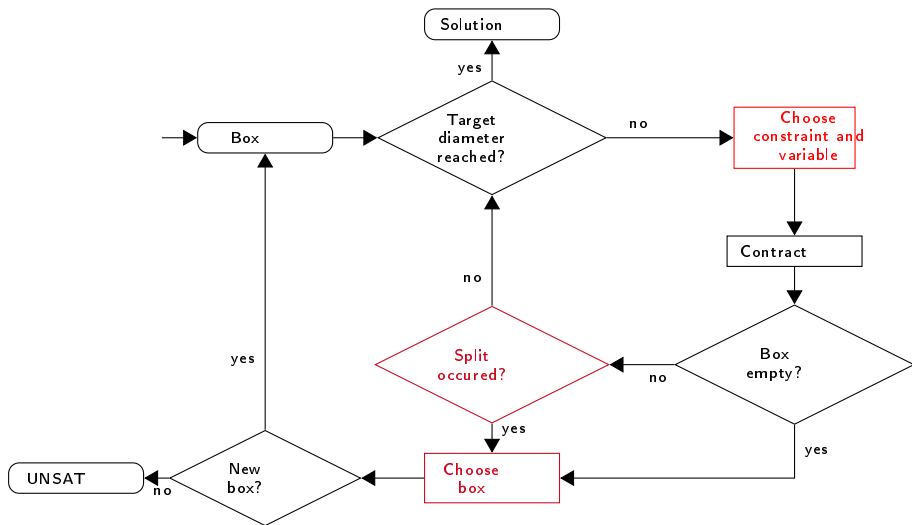
- We stop contraction when some diameter is reached (after a number of contraction steps or)
- Complete methods profit from reduced search space (but suffer from more calls)

Algorithm



Remark: Due to interval division propagation may result in two intervals (split)

Algorithm - extended



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- Conjunction of constraints
- Variables bounded by intervals (initial box)

Goal:

- Goal: Reduce box for complete methods (backend)

Algorithmic aspects:

- Method for contraction

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At each step we can consider 4 contractions:

$$\blacksquare I_x \xrightarrow{c_1, x} [1, 2] \quad (\text{gain}_{rel} : 0.5)$$

$$\blacksquare I_y \xrightarrow{c_1, y} [1, 2] \quad (\text{gain}_{rel} : 0)$$

$$\blacksquare I_x \xrightarrow{c_2, x} [1, \sqrt{2}] \quad (\text{gain}_{rel} : 0.793)$$

$$\blacksquare I_y \xrightarrow{c_2, y} [1, 2] \quad (\text{gain}_{rel} : 0)$$

Relative contraction:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{gain}_{rel} &= \frac{D_{old} - D_{new}}{D_{old}} \\ &= 1 - \frac{D_{new}}{D_{old}} \end{aligned}$$

→ Contraction gain varies.

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- The algorithm selects the next contraction candidate with the highest weight $W_k^{(ij)} \in [0; 1]$.

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The factor $\alpha \in [0; 1]$ decides how the importance of the events is rated:

- Large α (e.g. 0.9) \rightarrow The last recent event is most important
- Small α (e.g. 0.1) \rightarrow The initial weight is most important

CCs with a weight less than some threshold ε are not considered for contraction.

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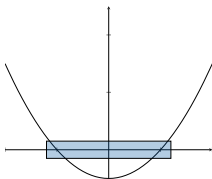
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General approach: Contract as long as contraction gain is large enough.

When the weight of all CCs is below the threshold we do not make progress
→ split manually (autonomous split).

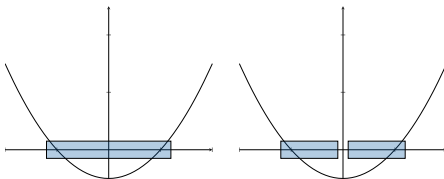
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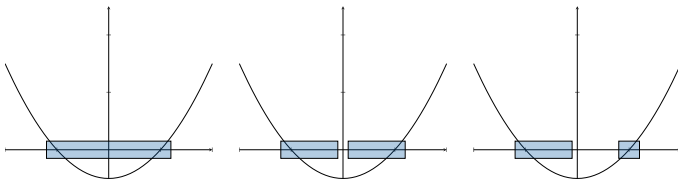
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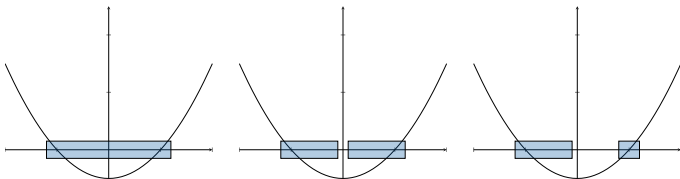
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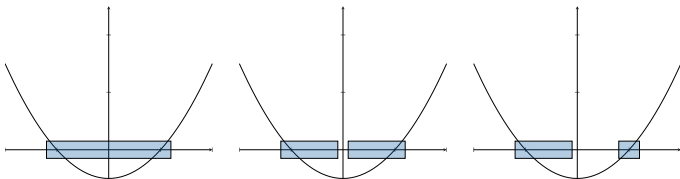
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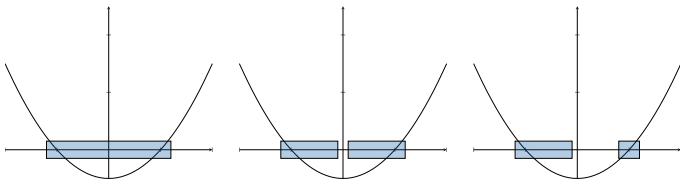


Problems:

- How to store boxes

Splitting

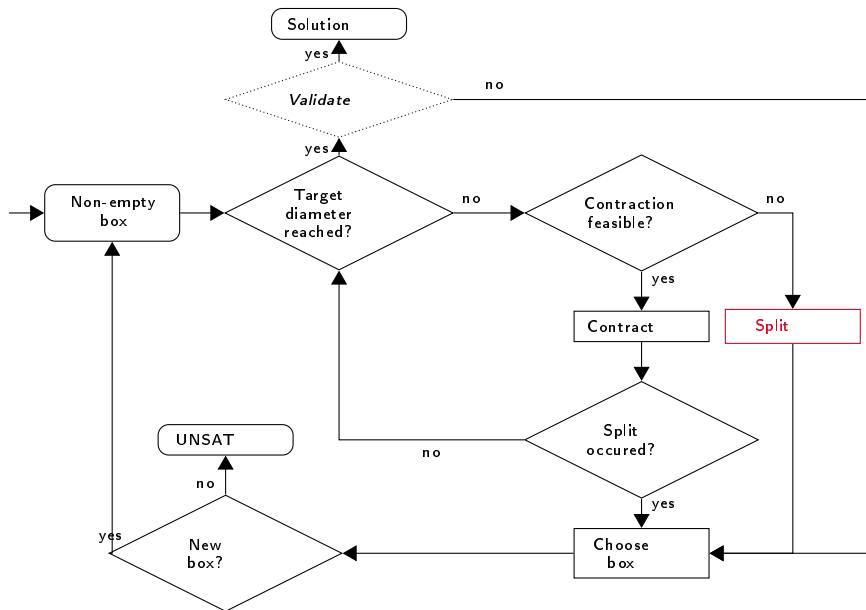
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Problems:

- How to store boxes
- How to select the next box

Algorithm overview



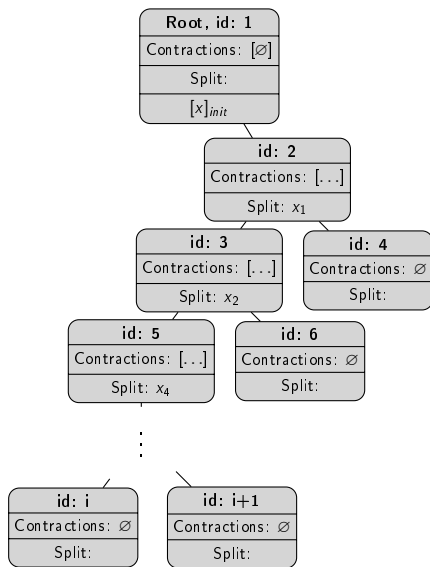
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- Search box
- Applied contractions
- Splitting dimension

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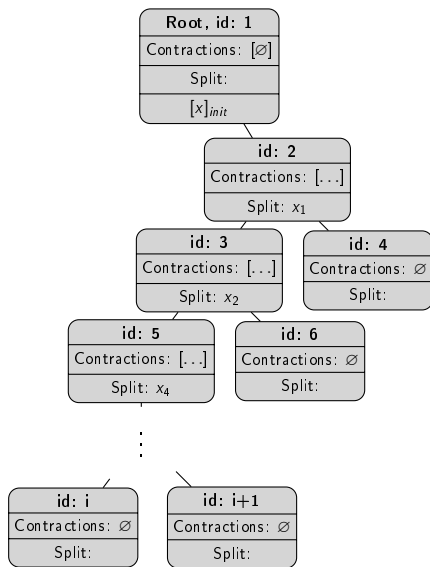
History tree

Additionally we can use the tree to collect infeasible subsets:

1 Infeasible box \rightarrow propagate reasons to parent

2 (optional) skip boxes

\rightarrow We generate a set of constraints which includes the infeasible subset.



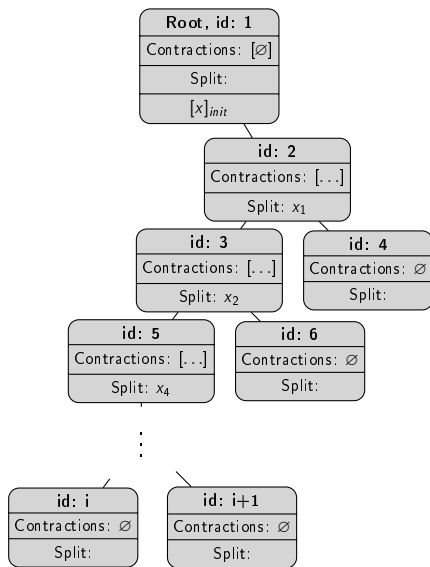
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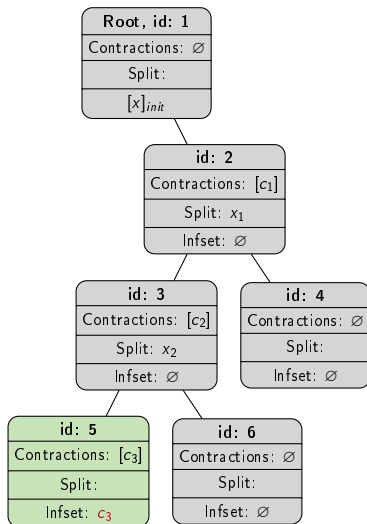
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If no further heuristics is applied we traverse the tree pre-order.

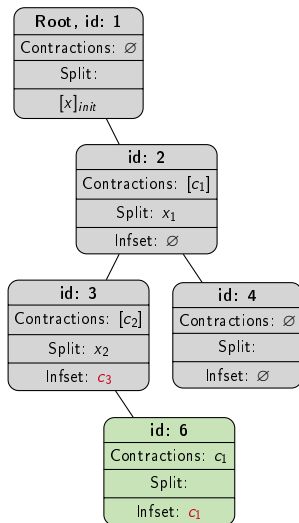
History tree example

Setup: constraints c_1, \dots, c_4 , variables x_1, \dots, x_3



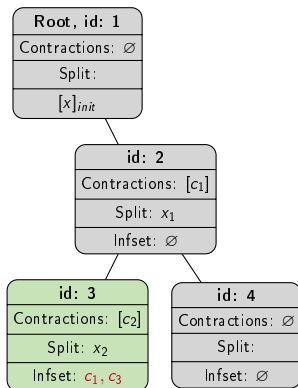
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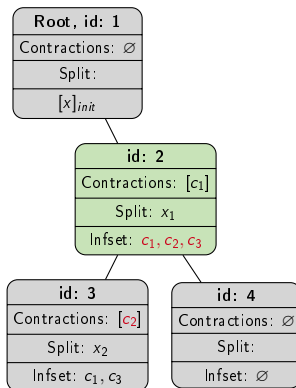
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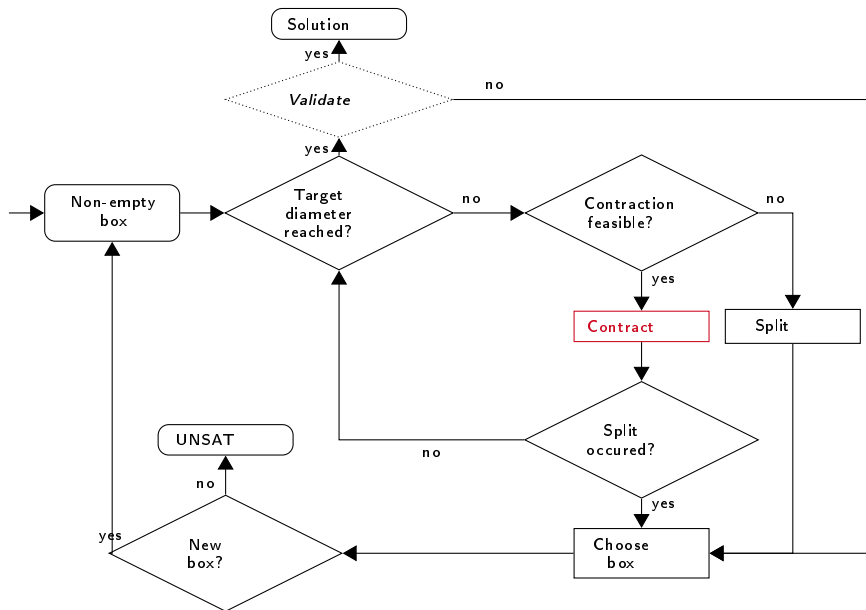
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Additional improvements:

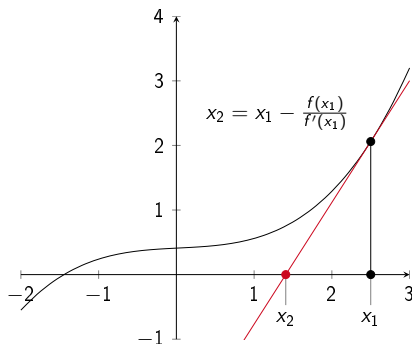
- More sophisticated contraction (Interval Newton method)
- Use linear (LRA) solver for linear constraints
- Introduce box validation
- Involve SAT-Solver for box-choice
- Introduce splitting heuristics

Algorithm overview



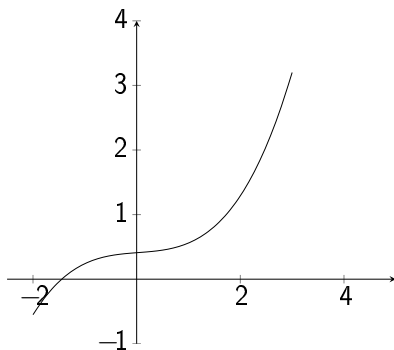
Interval Newton method

Reminder: Newton method for root finding (univariate polynomials):



Interval Newton method

Interval extension of Newton's method:

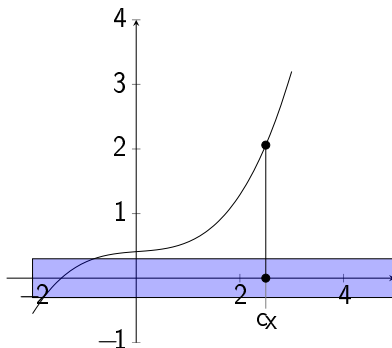


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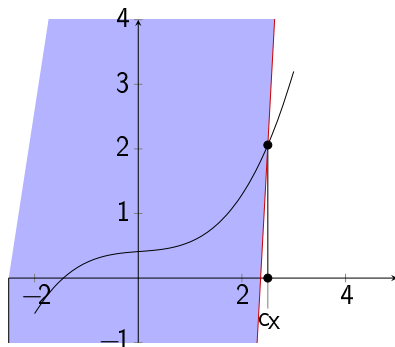
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Starting interval: $x \in I = [-2; 7]$, sampling point: $c_x = 2.5$

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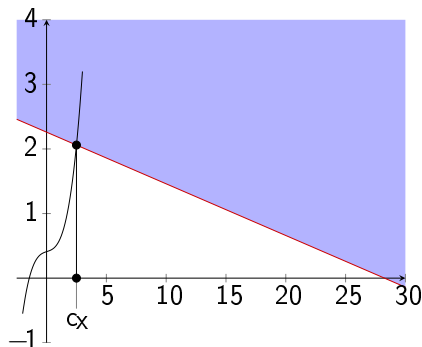
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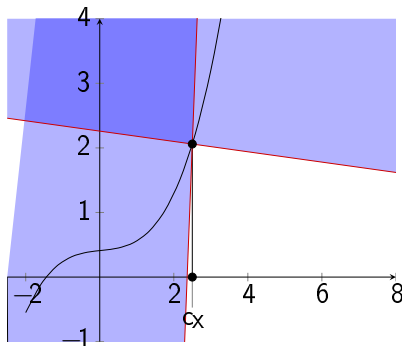
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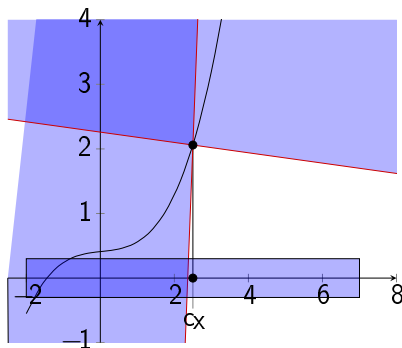
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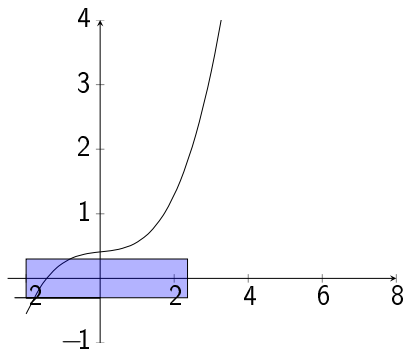
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Componentwise Newton operator

$$N_{cmp}(\overbrace{[x]}^{box}, \overbrace{f_i(x_1, \dots, x_n), j}^{CC}) := \\ c([x]_{x_j}) - \frac{f_i([x]_{x_1}, \dots, [x]_{x_{j-1}}, c([x]_{x_j}), [x]_{x_{j+1}}, \dots, [x]_{x_n})}{\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}([x]_{x_1}, \dots, [x]_{x_n})}$$

Reminder(Multivariate Newton):

$$N_{cmp}(x, f_i(x_1, \dots, x_n), j) = x - \frac{f_i(x)}{\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}(x)}$$

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The operator N_{cmp} has two important properties:

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→ Advantage: No diverging behavior like the original Newton method due to interval arithmetic.

→ We can drop boxes when they contract to empty.

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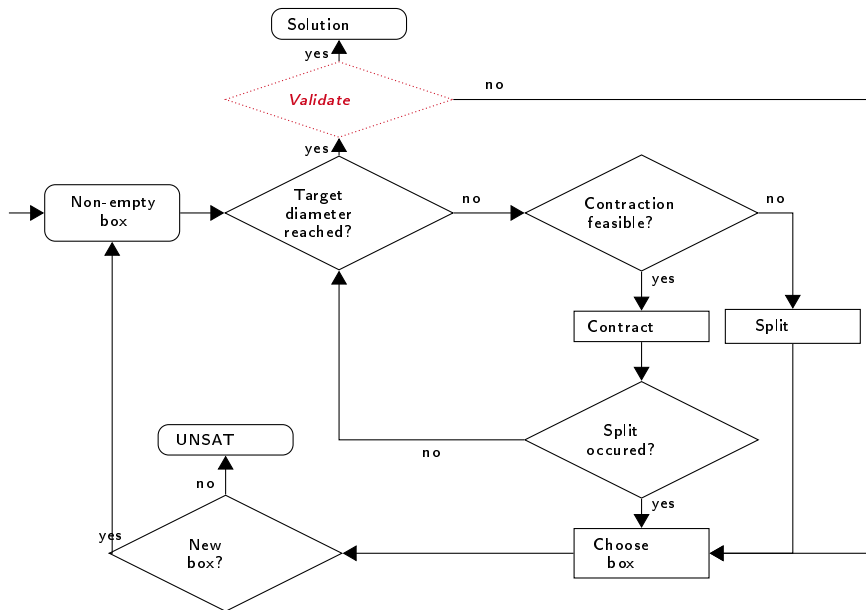
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- Determine linear feasible region
- Use nonlinear constraints for contraction
- Validate resulting boxes against linear feasible region
- In case box is linear infeasible: Add violated linear constraint for contraction

Algorithm overview

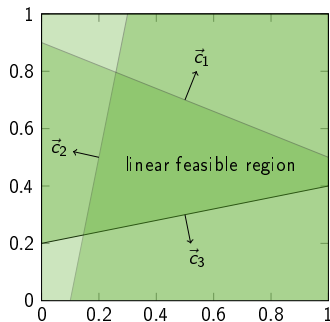


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Validation

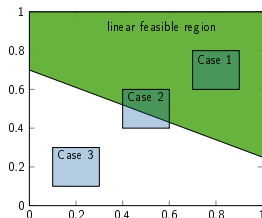
- Resulting intervals represent n-dimensional hyperboxes
- Boxes may violate linear constraints
- Check resulting boxes against the linear feasible region



Case distinction

We have to distinct 3 cases:

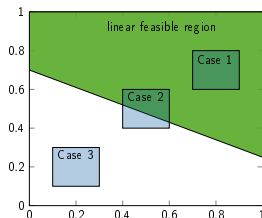
- Case 1: The resulting interval lies completely inside the linear feasible region



Case distinction

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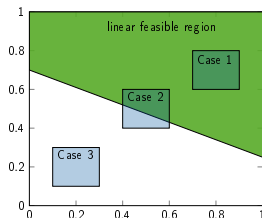
- Case 1: The resulting interval lies completely inside the linear feasible region
- Case 2: The hyperbox partly covers the linear feasible region



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- Case 2: The hyperbox partly covers the linear feasible region
- Case 3: The solution interval lies outside the linear feasible region

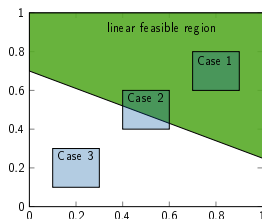


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The problem lies in separating the 1st case from the 2nd one.

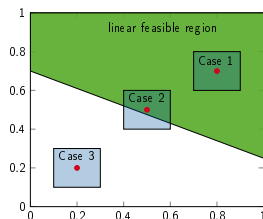


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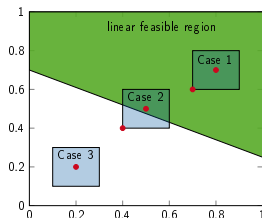


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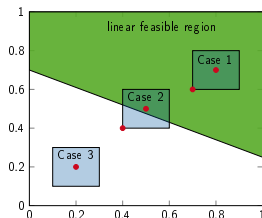


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If a checked point is valid \rightarrow return SAT

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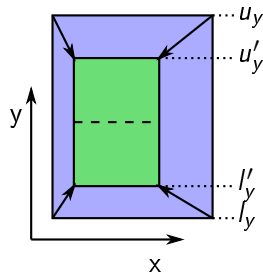
ICP deductions include:

- The split
- (optional) A premise in form of previous contractions

Raise splitting

Setup:

- Original box (blue) contracted to new box (green)
- Contraction via constraints $c_i, i = 1, \dots, n$
- Demanded split at $c(l_y)$

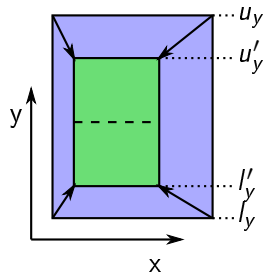


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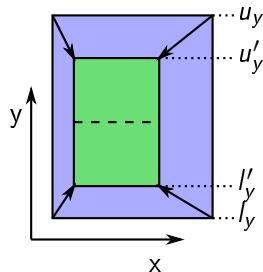
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$$\underbrace{(y \in [l'_y; c(l_y)] \oplus y \in (c(l_y); u'_y])}_{split}$$

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- Demanded split at $c(l_y)$



We create a splitting deduction:

$$\underbrace{x \in [l_x] \wedge y \in [l_y] \wedge (c_1 \wedge \dots \wedge c_n)}_{\text{premise}} \rightarrow \underbrace{(y \in [l'_y; c(l_y)] \oplus y \in (c(l_y); u'_y])}_{\text{split}}$$

We've learned about:

- Basic interval arithmetic (no division by intervals containing 0)
- Interval propagation
- Problems during contraction
- Splitting
- Basic algorithm (see Slide 20)
- Possible extensions (not in detail)

