

CONDITION NUMBERS  
& PROBABILITY  
for EXPLAINING ALGORITHMS  
in  
COMPUTATIONAL  
GEOMETRY

Josué TONELLI-CUETO  
UT San Antonio

MINDS & CIS  
SEMINAR SERIES  
6/sep/2022

# Fun Fact of the Day (6/SEP/2022)



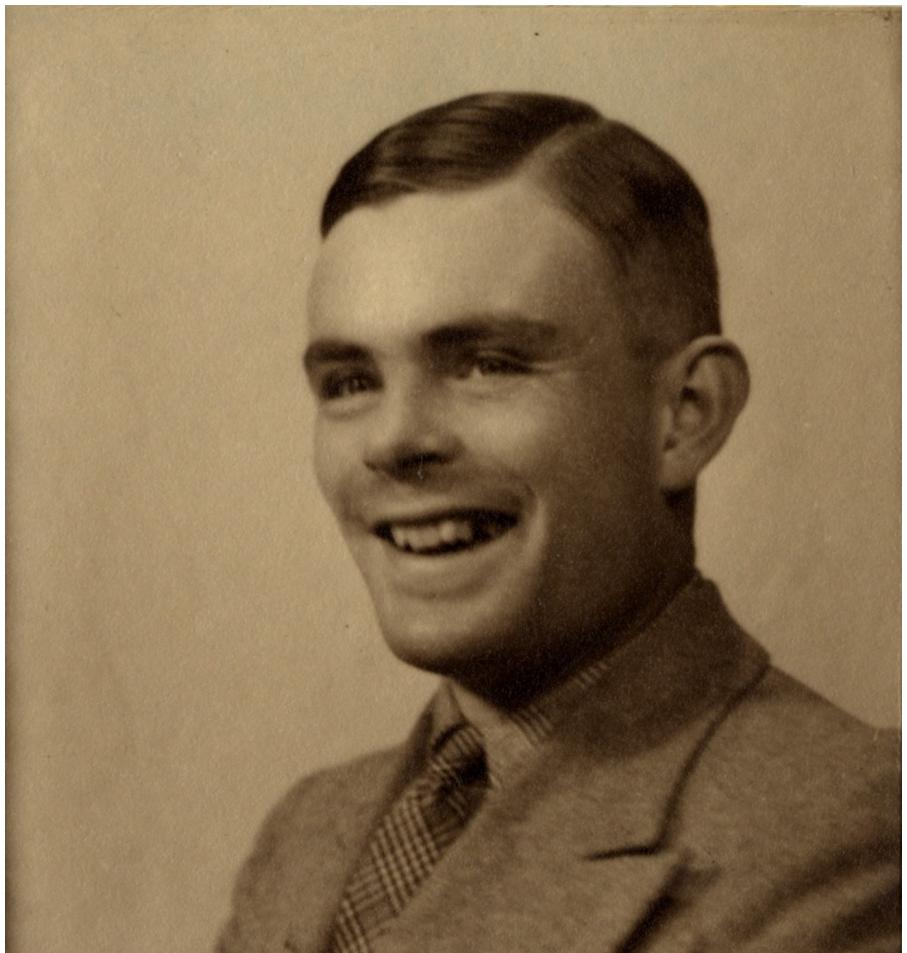
Source: Donna Haraway — Storytelling for Earthly Survival

BIRTHDAY OF DONNA HARAWAY (79 years old)  
— among other things, known by the Cyborg Manifesto

Why some algorithms  
work a lot better  
than predicted?

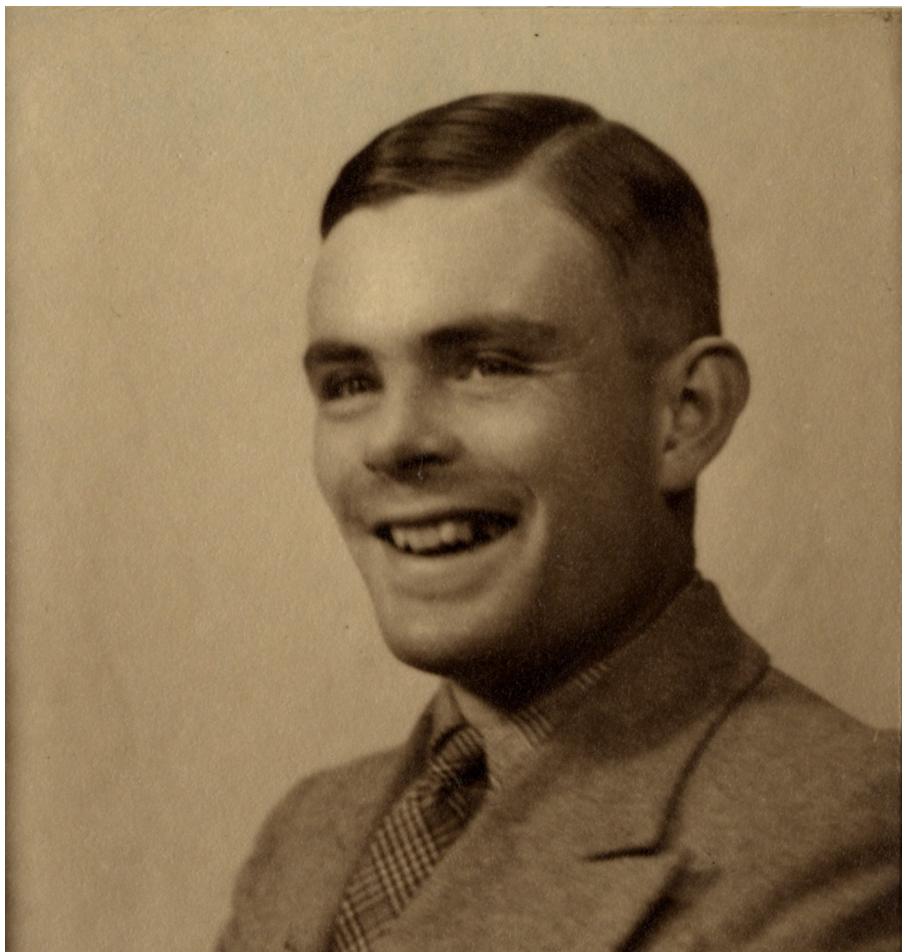
THE FOUNDATIONAL MYTH:

# THE FOUNDATIONAL MYTH: Turing

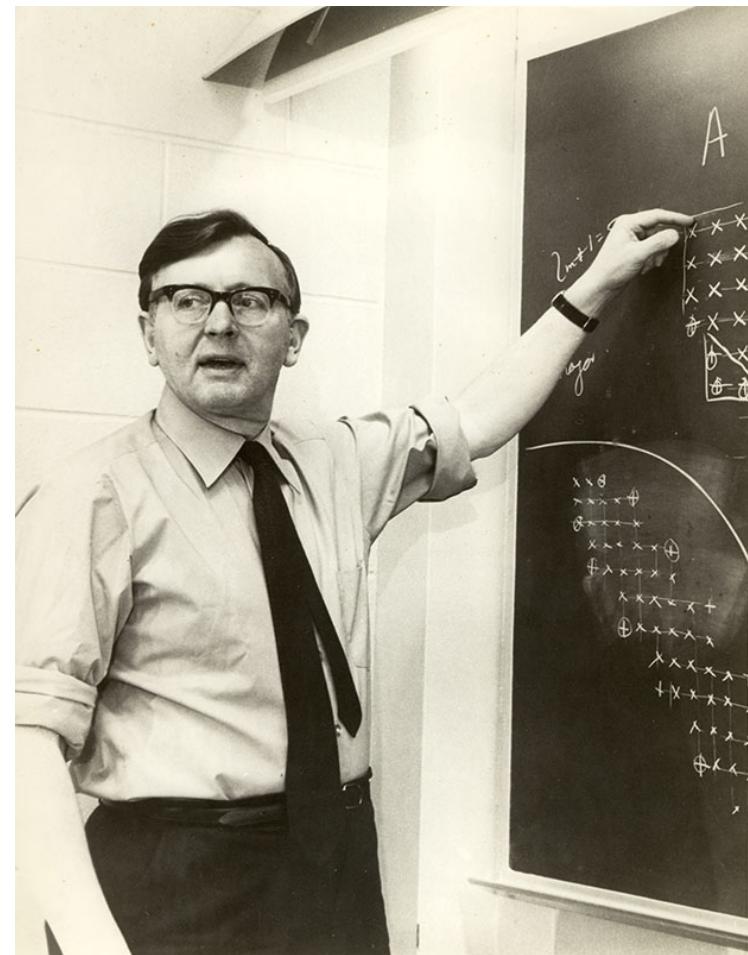


Source: King's College  
[ATM/K/3/11]

# THE FOUNDATIONAL MYTH: Turing vs. Wilkinson



Source: King's College  
[ATM/K/3/11]



Source: Higham's web

# THE FOUNDATIONAL MYTH: Turing vs. Wilkinson

However, it happened that some time after my arrival, a system of 18 equations arrived in Mathematics Division and after talking around it for some time we finally decided to abandon theorizing and to solve it. A system of 18 is surprisingly formidable, even when one has had previous experience with 12, and we accordingly de-

Wilkinson, 1970 Turing Lecture

# THE FOUNDATIONAL MYTH: Turing vs. Wilkinson

However, it happened that some time after my arrival, a system of 18 equations arrived in Mathematics Division and after talking around it for some time we finally decided to abandon theorizing and to solve it. A system of 18 is surprisingly formidable, even when one has had previous experience with 12, and we accordingly decided on a joint effort. The operation was manned by Fox, Goodwin, Turing, and me, and we decided on Gaussian elimination with complete pivoting. Turing was not particularly enthusiastic, partly because he was not an experienced performer on a desk machine and partly because he was convinced that it would be a failure. History repeated itself remarkably closely. Again the system was mildly ill-conditioned, the last equation had a coefficient of order  $10^{-4}$  (the original coefficients being of order unity) and the residuals were again of order  $10^{-10}$ , that is of the size corresponding to the exact solution rounded to ten decimals. It is interesting that in connection with this example we subsequently performed one or two steps of what would now be called "iterative refinement," and this convinced us that the first solution had had almost six correct figures.

# THE FOUNDATIONAL MYTH:

Turing vs. Wilkinson

I suppose this must be regarded as a defeat for Turing since he, at that time, was a keener adherent than any of the rest of us to the pessimistic school. However, I'm sure that this experience made quite an impression on him and set him thinking afresh on the problem of rounding errors in elimination processes. About a year later he produced his famous paper "Rounding-off errors in matrix processes" [1] which together with the paper of J. von Neumann and H. Goldstine [4] did a great deal to dispel the gloom. The second round undoubtedly went to Turing!

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## ROUNDING-OFF ERRORS IN MATRIX PROCESSES

By A. M. TURING

(National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex)

[Received 4 November 1947]

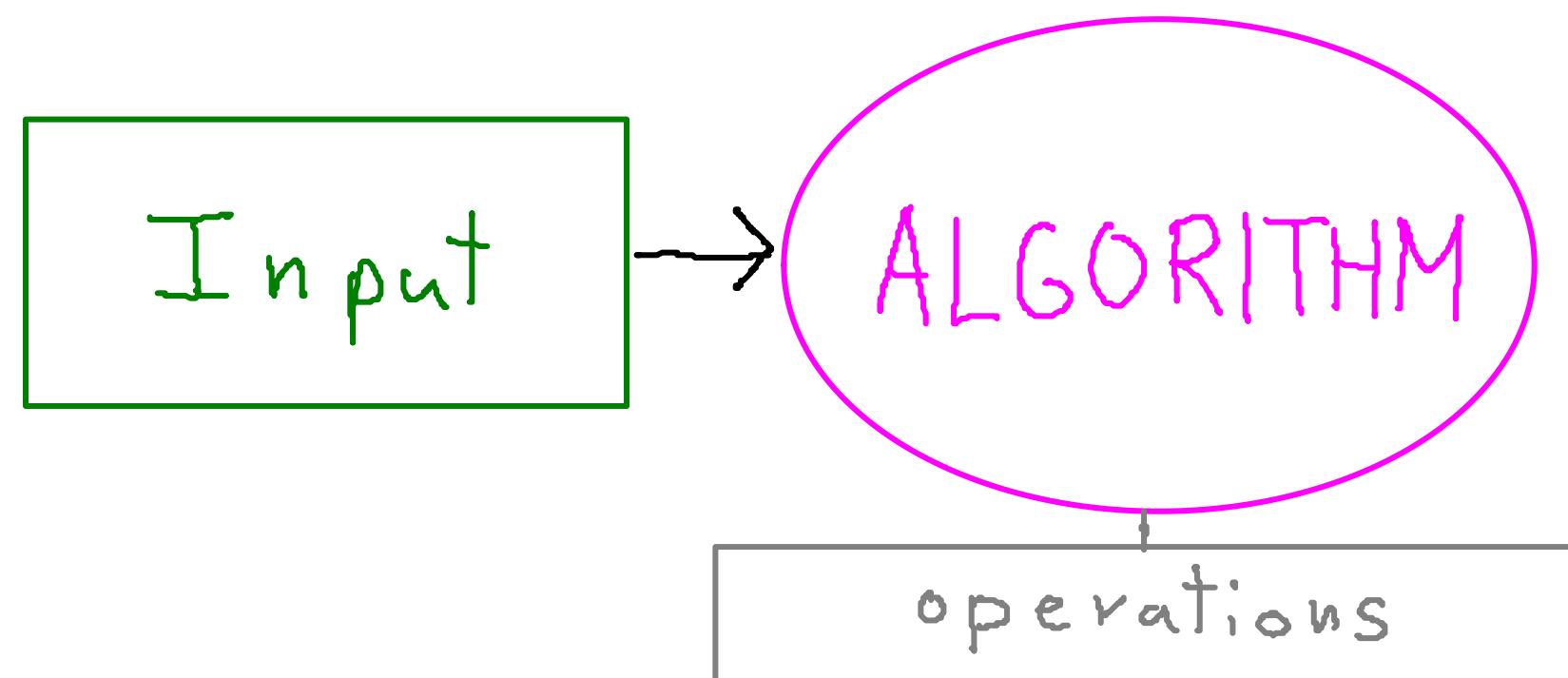
Wilkinson, 1970 Turing Lecture

# Complexity of (Traditional) Algorithms

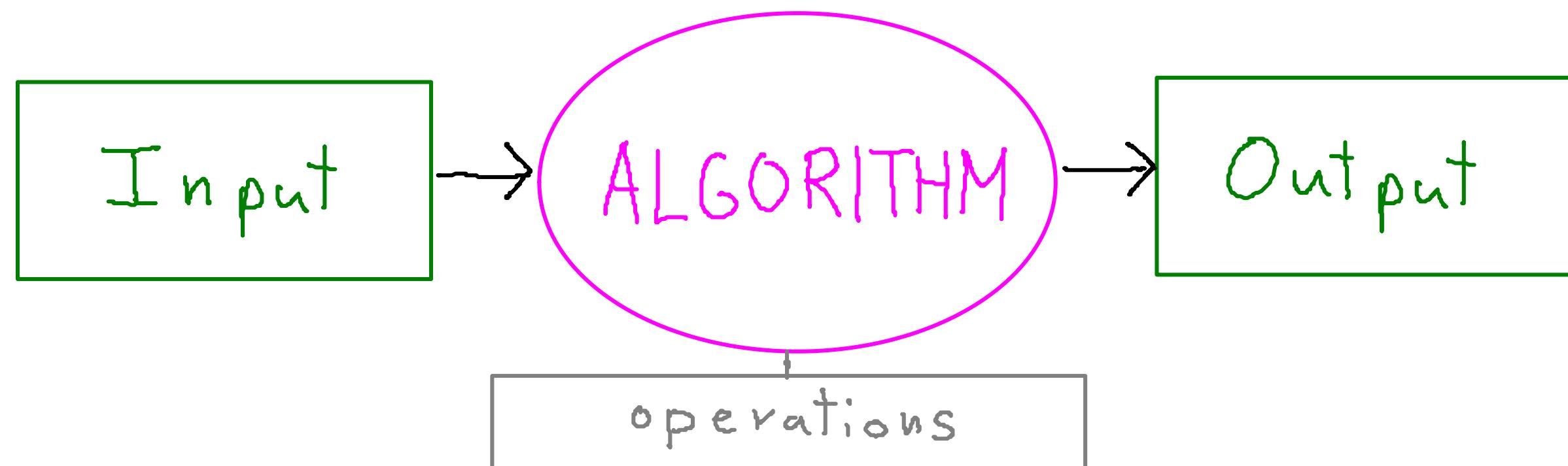
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Input

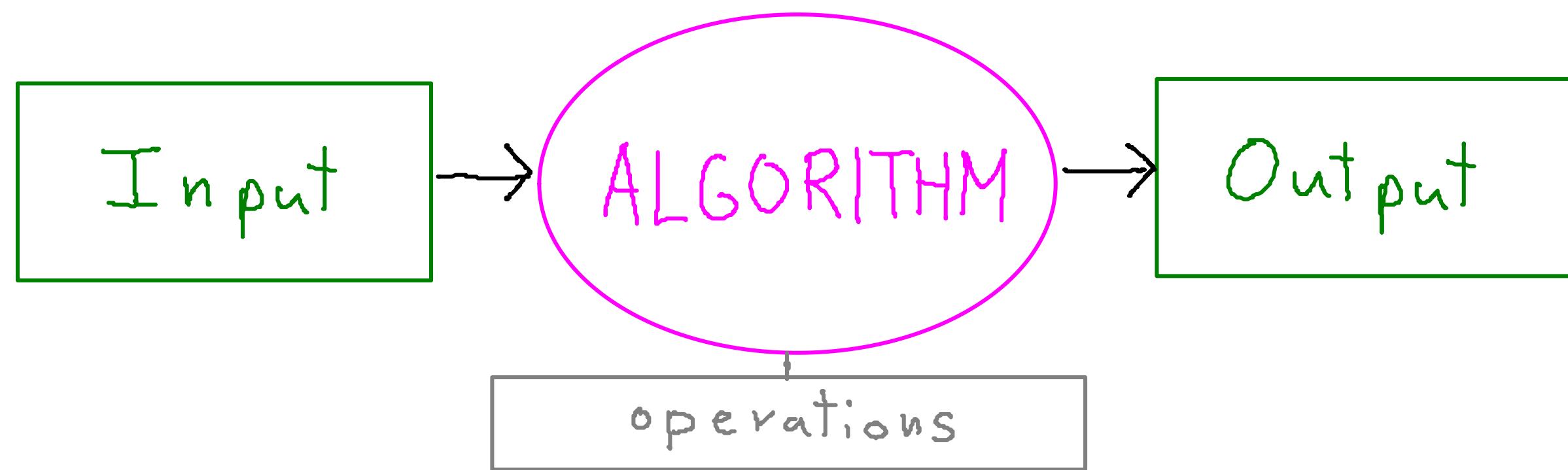
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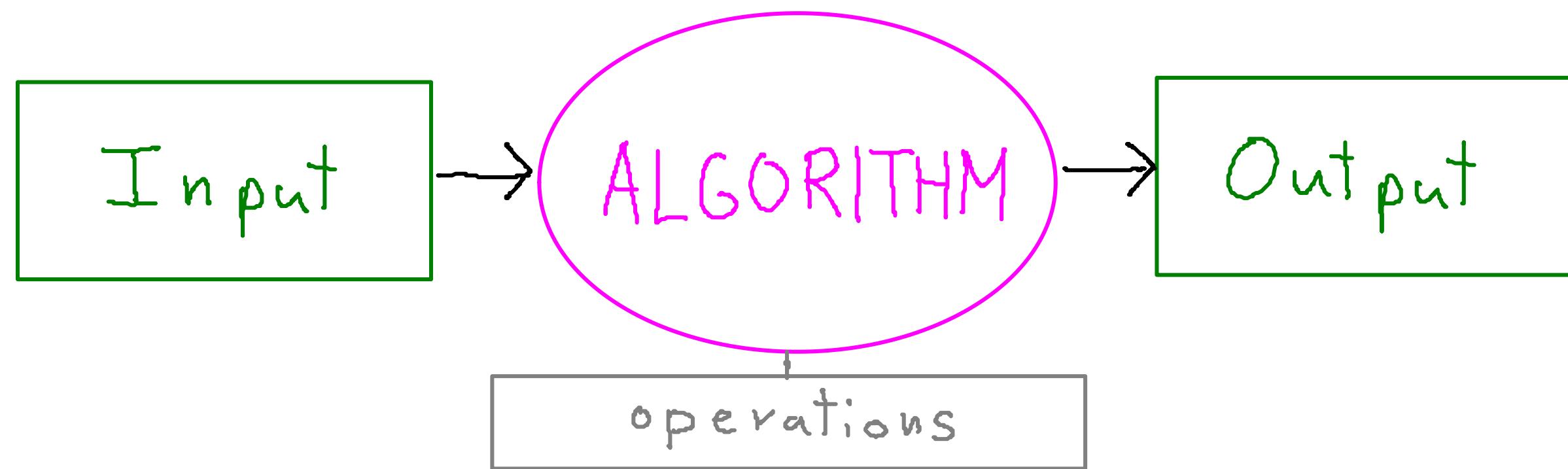
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Worst-case form of complexity estimate:

$$\text{run-time}(\text{ALGORITHM}, \text{Input}) \leq f(\text{size}(\text{Input}))$$

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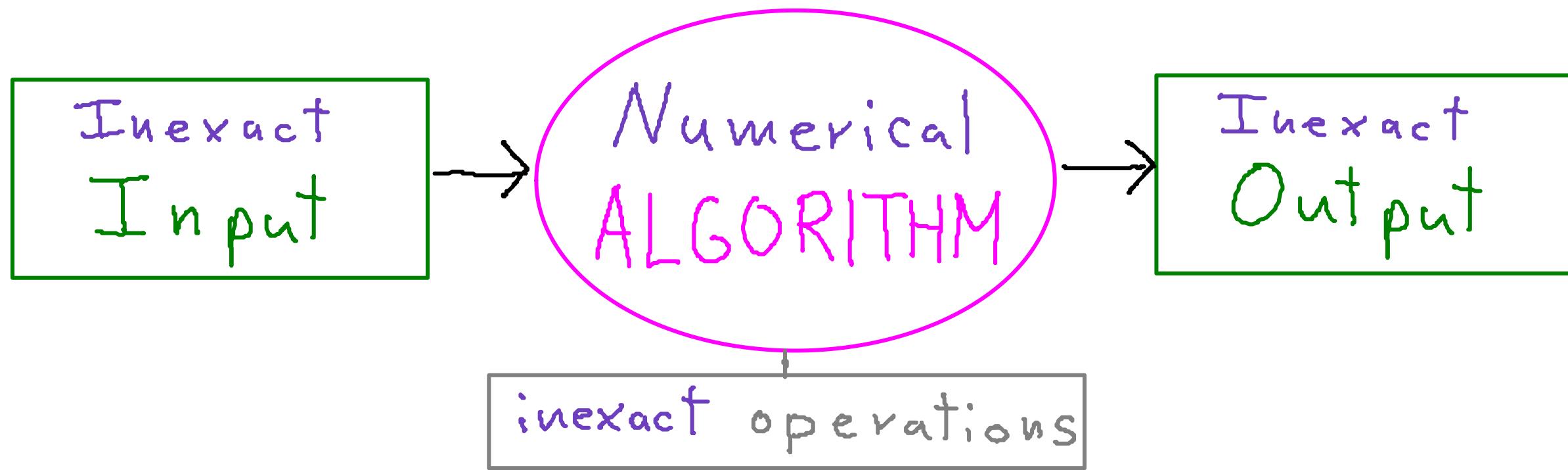
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Sometimes size has several parameters  
(e.g. #variables, degree...)

# Complexity of Numerical Algorithms I



⚠️ usual form of complexity fails!

ALL INPUTS OF THE SAME SIZE ARE EQUAL,  
BUT SOME INPUTS ARE MORE EQUAL  
THAN OTHERS

# Complexity of Numerical Algorithms II

Condition-based complexity | (Turing)  
(Goldstine, von Neumann)

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⚠  $\text{cond}$  is a property of the computational problem,  
not of the algorithm!

# Complexity of Numerical Algorithms III

Condition-based complexity II<sup>(Turing)</sup>  
(Goldstine, von Neumann)

# Complexity of Numerical Algorithms III

Condition-based complexity  $\llcorner$   
(Turing)  
(Goldstine, von Neumann)

Condition-based form of complexity estimates

$$\text{run-time}(\text{ALGORITHM}, \text{Input}) \leq g(\text{size}(\text{Input}), \text{cond}(\text{Input}))$$

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Condition-based form of complexity estimates

$$\text{run-time}(\text{ALGORITHM}, \text{Input}) \leq g(\text{size}(\text{Input}), \text{cond}(\text{Input}))$$

Can we have a complexity estimate  
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How do we randomize the Input?

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Yes, if we randomize the Input

How do we randomize the Input?

We choose the probability distribution

depending on the context!

Statistical complexity might have been a better name

# Complexity of (Numerical) Algorithms V

Probabilistic complexity II (Goldstine, von Neumann)  
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# Complexity of (Numerical) Algorithms V

Probabilistic complexity II (Goldstine, von Neumann)  
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Probabilistic form of complexity estimates

$$P_{\text{input}} \left[ \text{run-time}(\text{ALGORITHM}, \text{input}) \geq t \right] \leq f(s, t)$$

where  $\text{size}(\text{input}) \leq s$

# Complexity of (Numerical) Algorithms V

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$$P_{\text{input}} \left[ \text{run-time}(\text{ALGORITHM}, \text{input}) \geq t \right] \leq g(s, t)$$

where  $\text{size}(\text{input}) \leq s$

... and if we are lucky

$$E_{\text{input}} \left[ \text{run-time}(\text{ALGORITHM}, \text{input}) \geq t \right] \leq g(s)$$

# Complexity of (Numerical) Algorithms VI

Smoothed complexity] (Spielman, Teng)

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Smoothed form of complexity estimates

$$\sup_{\substack{\text{Input} \\ \text{size(Input)}=s}} P_{\text{noise}} \left[ \text{runtime}(\text{ALGORITHM}, \text{Input} + \sigma_{\text{noise}}) \geq t \right] \leq g(s, t) / \alpha$$

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$$\sup_{\substack{\text{Input} \\ \text{size(Input)}=s}} P_{\text{noise}} \left[ \text{runtime(ALGORITHM, Input + } \sigma \text{ noise)} \geq t \right] \leq f(s, t) / \sigma$$

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Worst-case form of complexity estimate

$$\text{run-time}(\text{ALGORITHM}, \text{Input}) \leq f(\text{size}(\text{Input}))$$

$$\uparrow \sigma \rightarrow 0$$

Smoothed form of complexity estimates

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$$\downarrow \sigma \rightarrow \infty$$

Probabilistic form of complexity estimates

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# Complexity of (Numerical) Algorithms

Success stories

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Solving Linear Equations

See any intro to numerical analysis/random matrix theory

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Smale's 17th Problem

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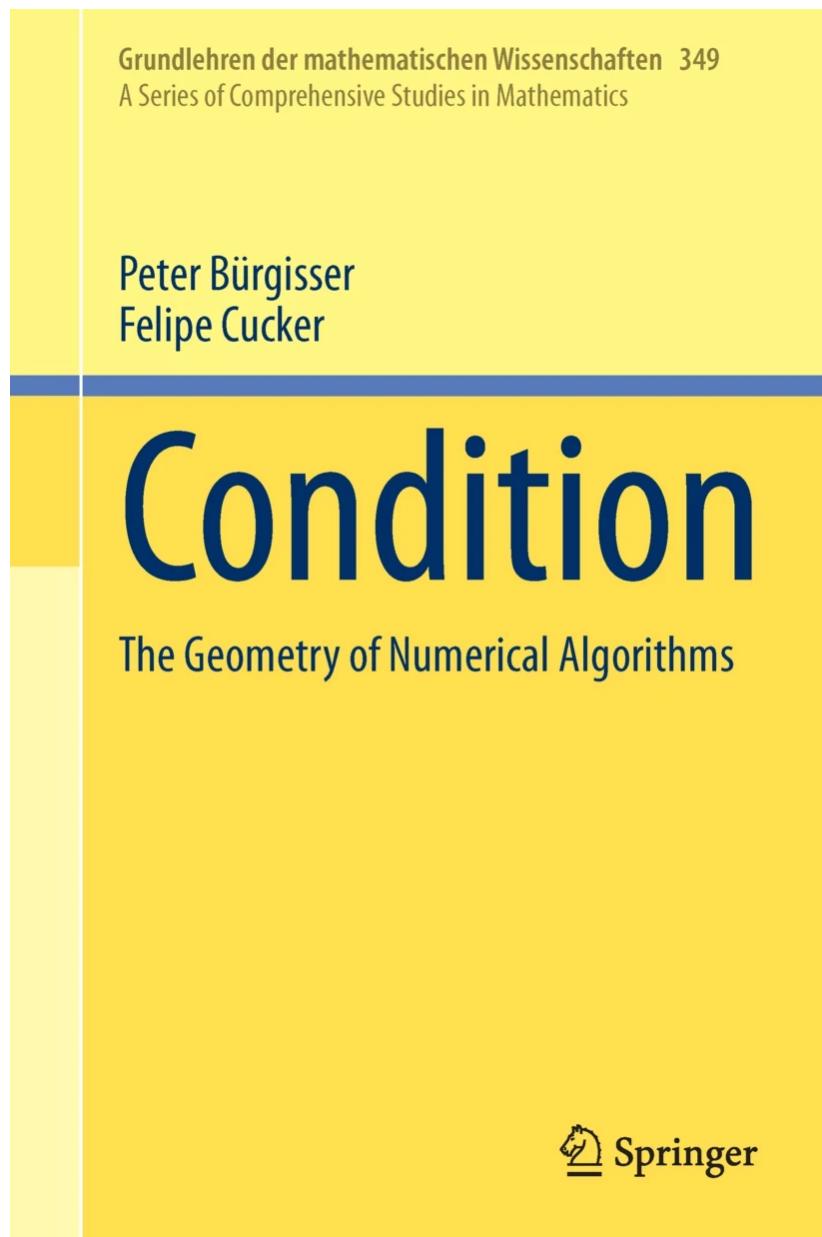
...

# Complexity of (Numerical) Algorithms IX

A good introduction...

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# THE FRAMEWORK IN ACTION I

the  
PLANTINGA-VEGTER  
algorithm

Joint work with F. Cucker & A.A. Ergür  
Plus extra work with E. Tsigaridas



Photo while working on another project

An algorithm for Visualizing  
Implicit Curves & Surfaces

# An algorithm for Visualizing Implicit Curves & Surfaces

Eurographics Symposium on Geometry Processing (2004)  
R. Scopigno, D. Zorin, (Editors)

## **Isotopic Approximation of Implicit Curves and Surfaces**

Simon Plantinga and Gert Vegter

Institute for Mathematics and Computing Science  
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$C^1$ -Function

$$f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

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$C^1$ -Function  
 $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$   PV Algorithm

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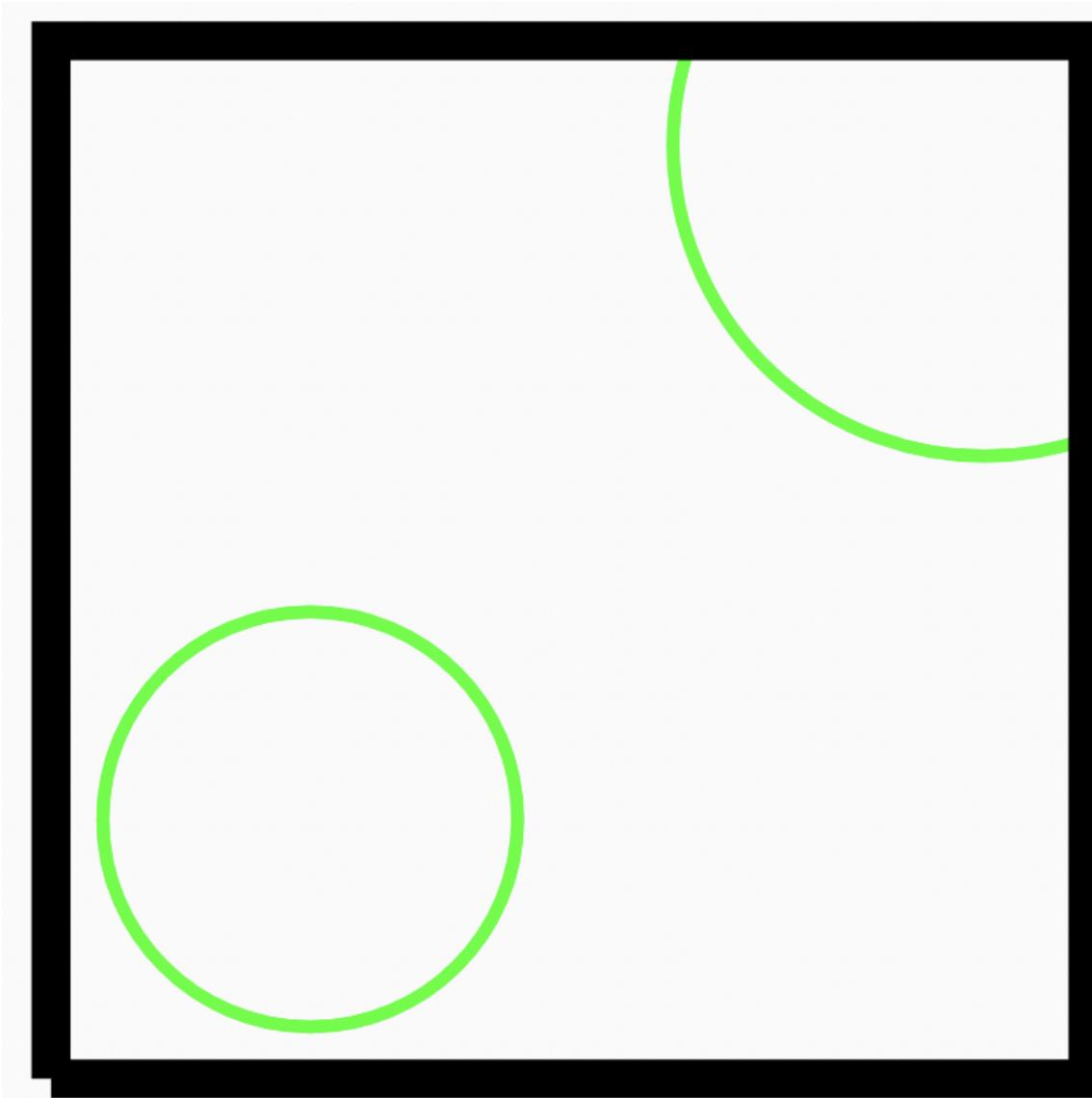
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Extended to hypersurfaces by Galehouse

# PV Algorithm in Action I

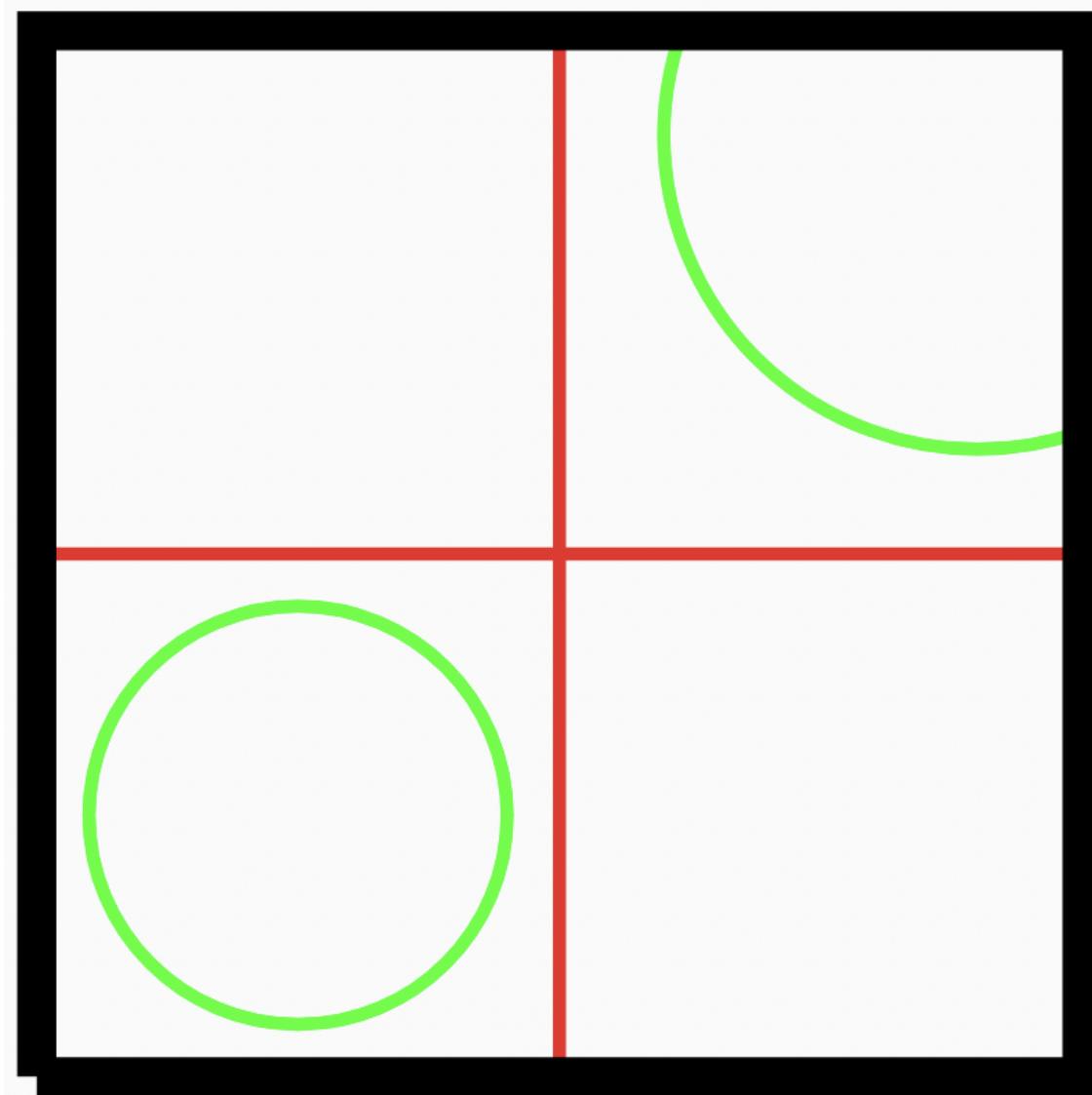
$$g = (x^2 + y^2)^2 - 6(x^3 + x^2y + xy^2 + y^3) \\ - 34(x^2 + y^2) - 320xy + 376(x+y) + 3128$$



[-10, 10]

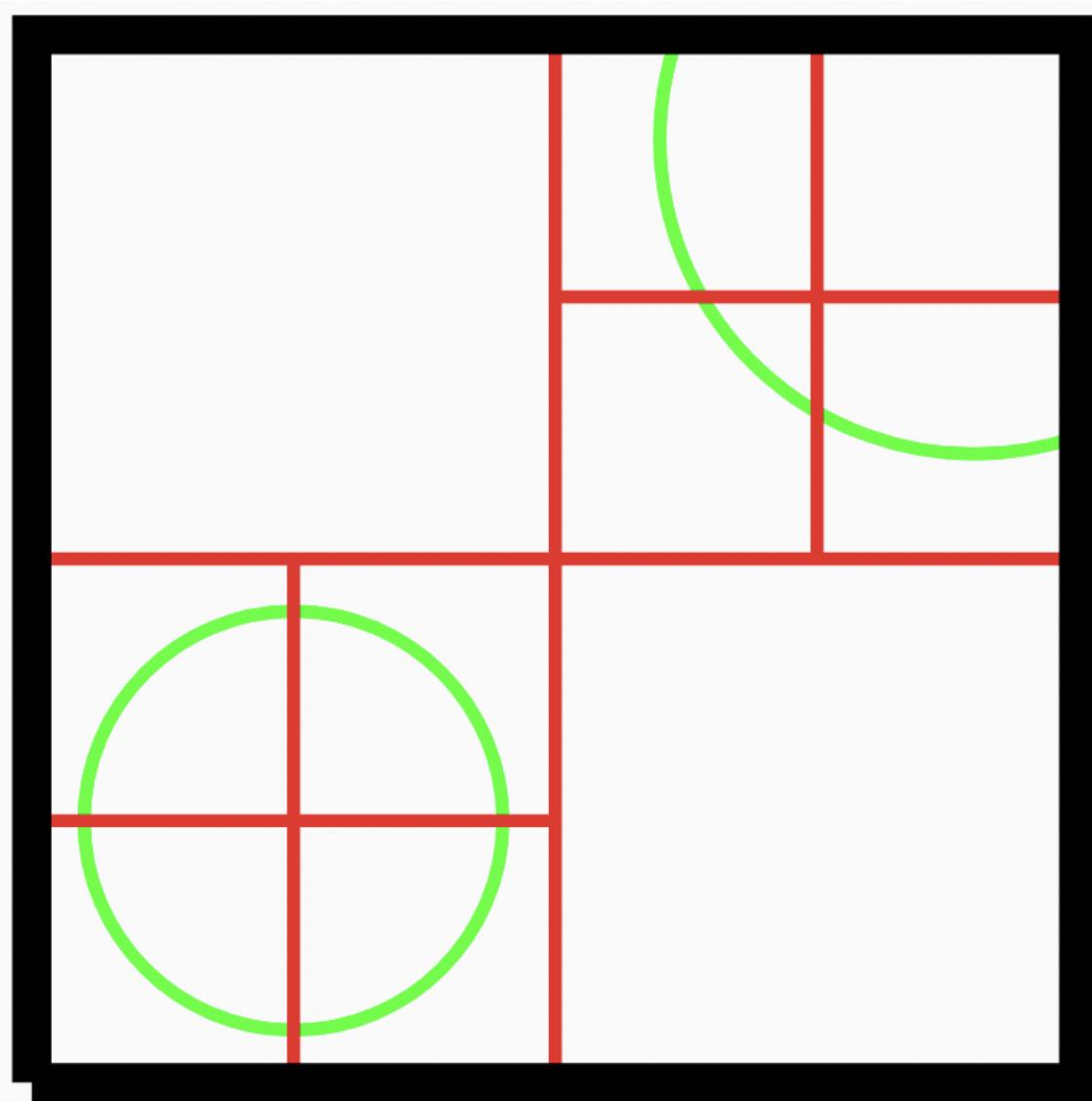
# PV Algorithm in Action I

## Subdivision STEP I



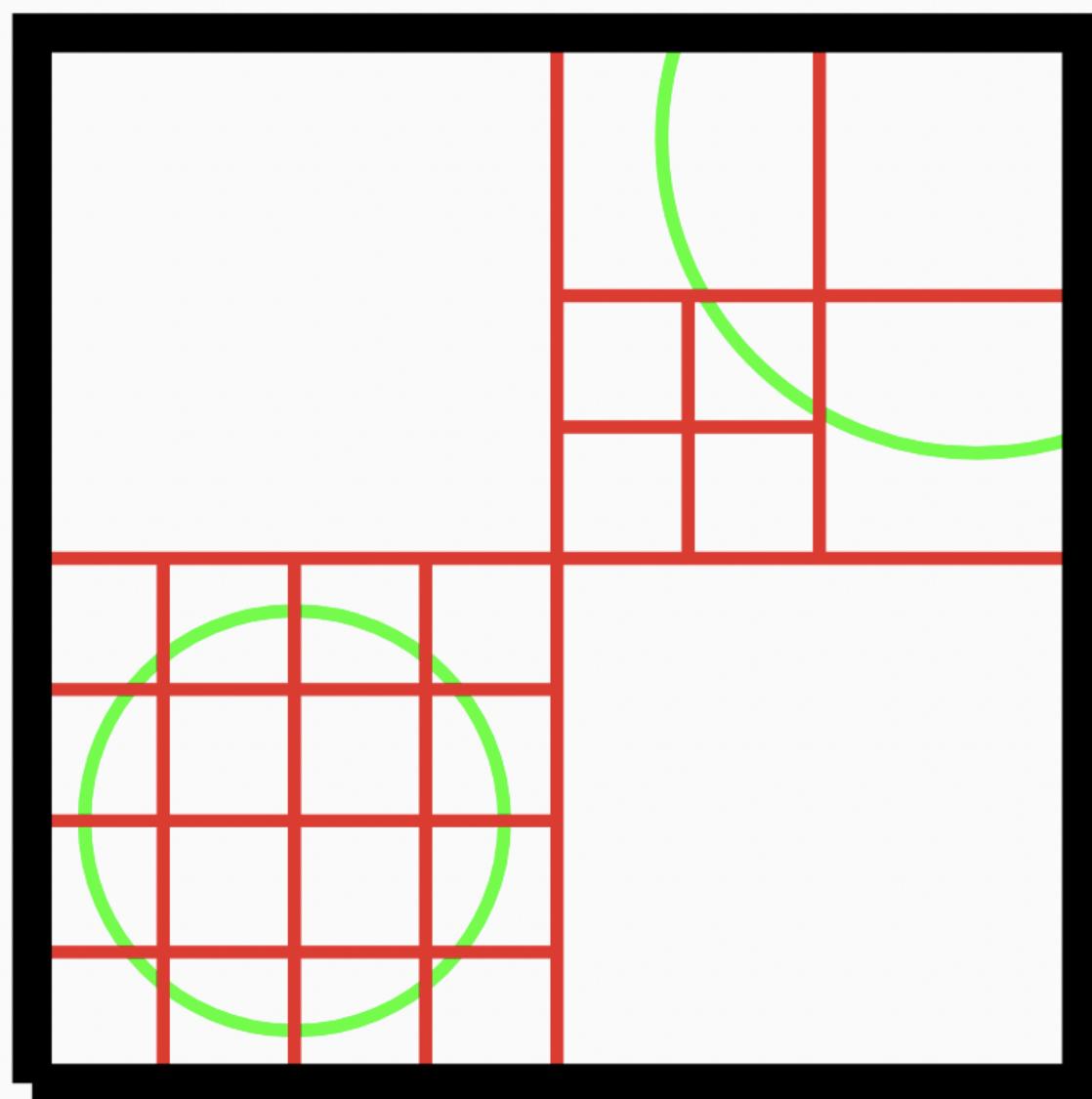
# PV Algorithm in Action I

Subdivision STEP II



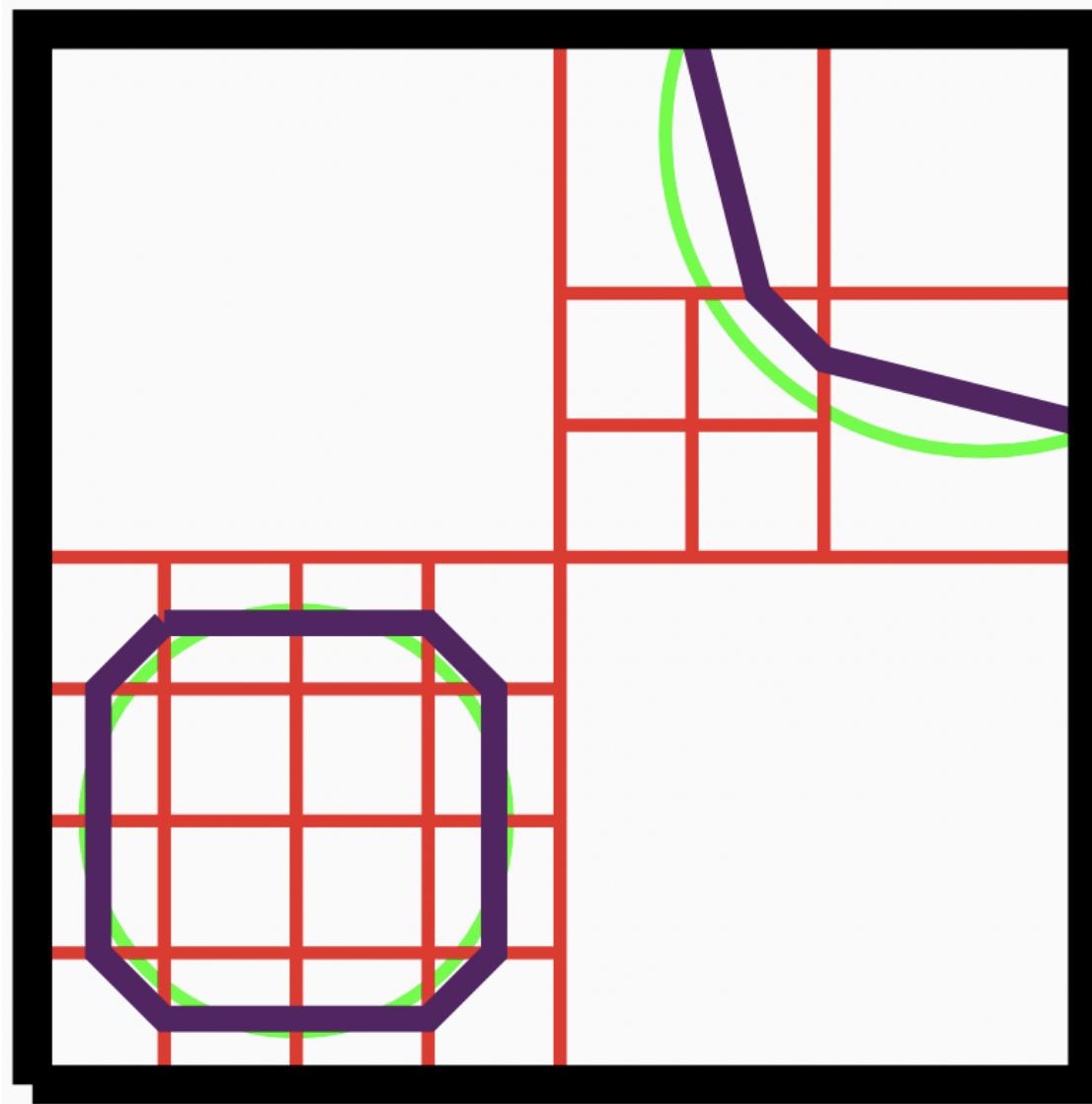
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Subdivision STEP III

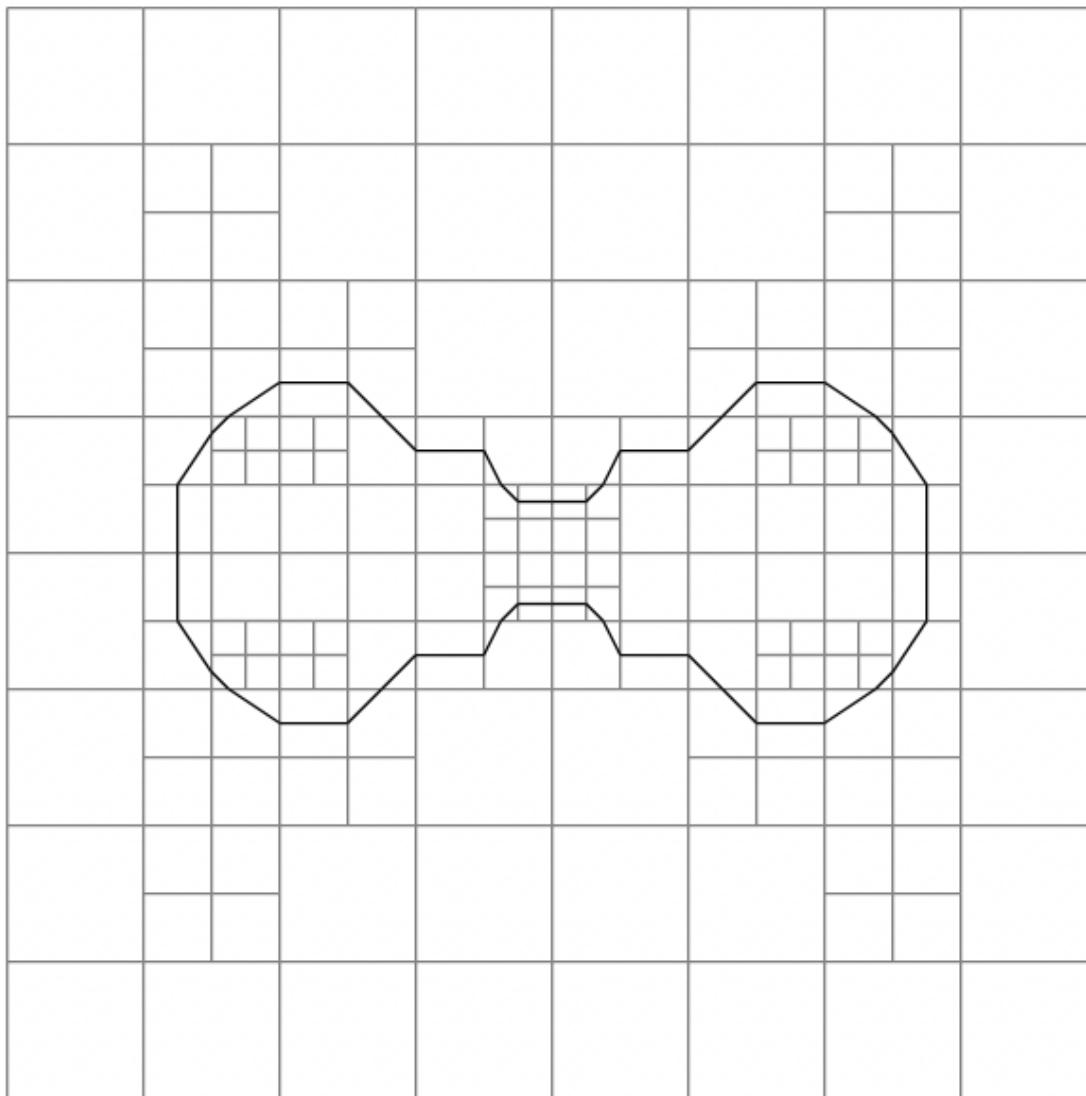


# PV Algorithm in Action I

## POSTPROCESSING STEP

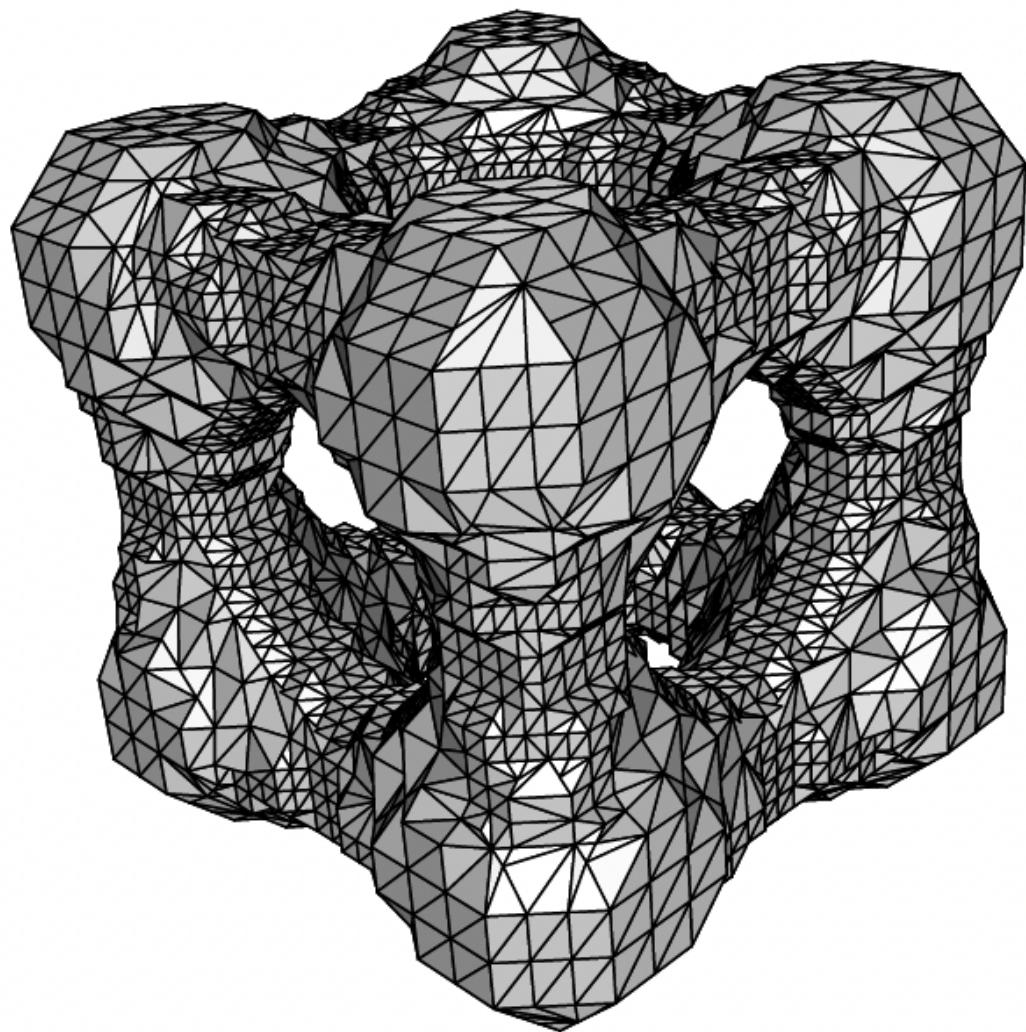


# PV Algorithm in Action III



$$g = x^2(1-x)(1+x) - y^2 + 0.01$$

# PV Algorithm in Action III



$$g = X^4 - 5X^2 + Y^4 - 5Y^2 + Z^4 - 5Z^2 + 10$$

PV Algorithm works in practice,

but worst-case bounds\* were

too pessimistic!

\* by Burr, Gao, Tsigaridas

PLANTINGA-VEGTER CRITERION I

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$C_8(B)$ : { OR

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THM. If  $S$  is a subdivision  
of  $[-a, a]$  s.t. for all  $B \in S, C_g(B)$   
holds.

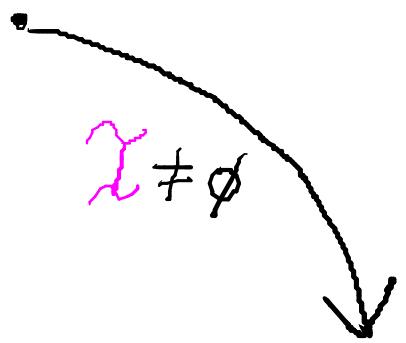
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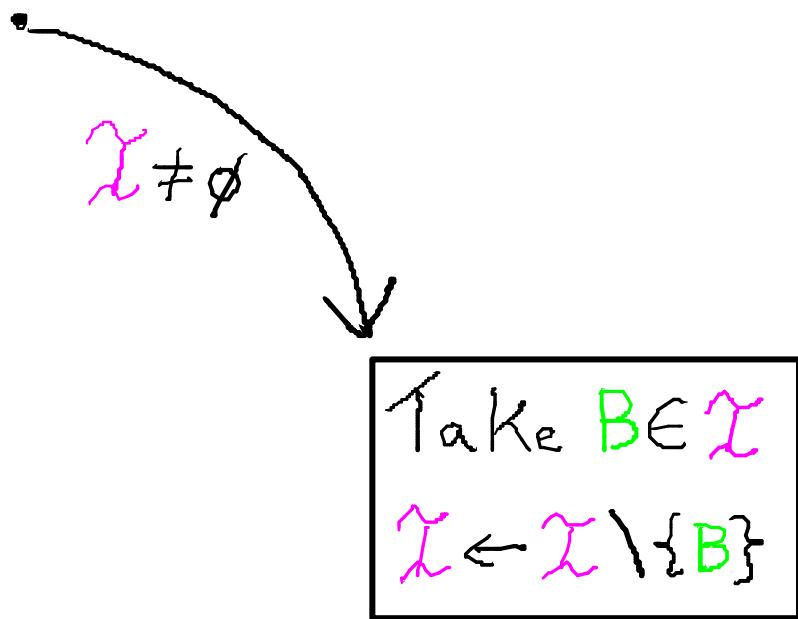
THM. If  $S$  is a subdivision of  $[-a, a]$  s.t. for all  $B \in S, C_g(B)$  holds. Then we can produce a PL approx of  $\mathcal{Z}(g) \cap [-a, a]$  that is isotopically equiv.

# PLANTINGA-VEGTER ALGORITHM (Abstract level)

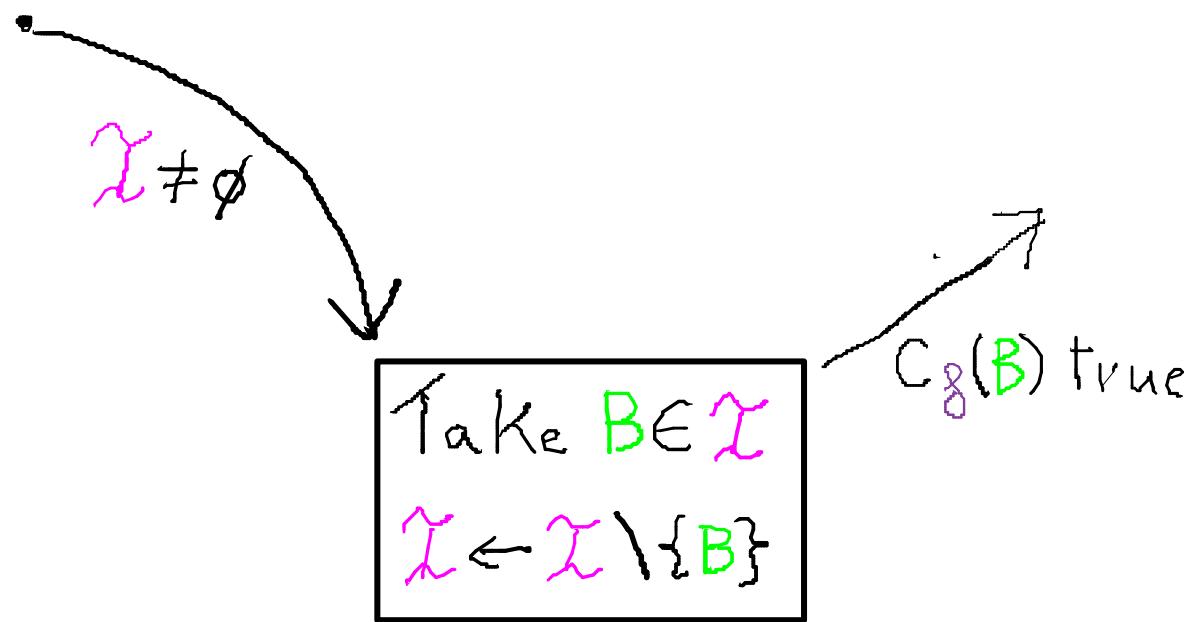
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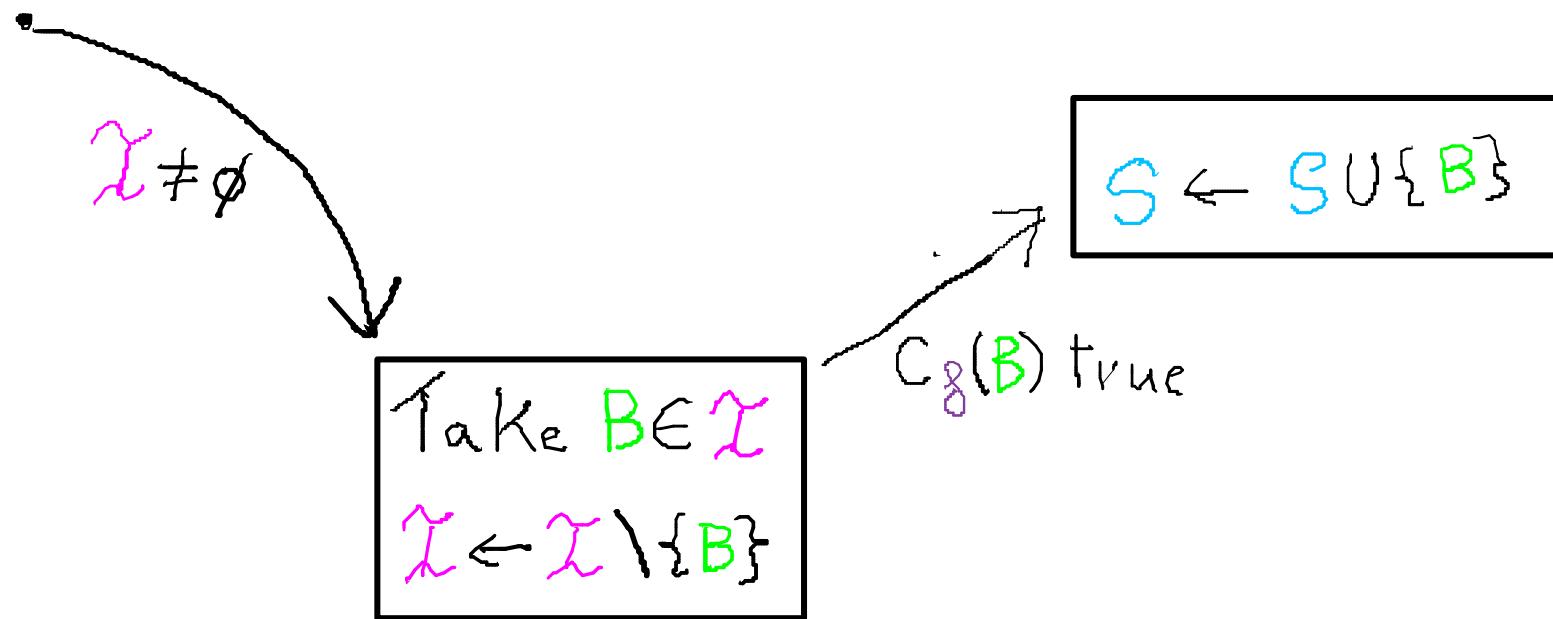
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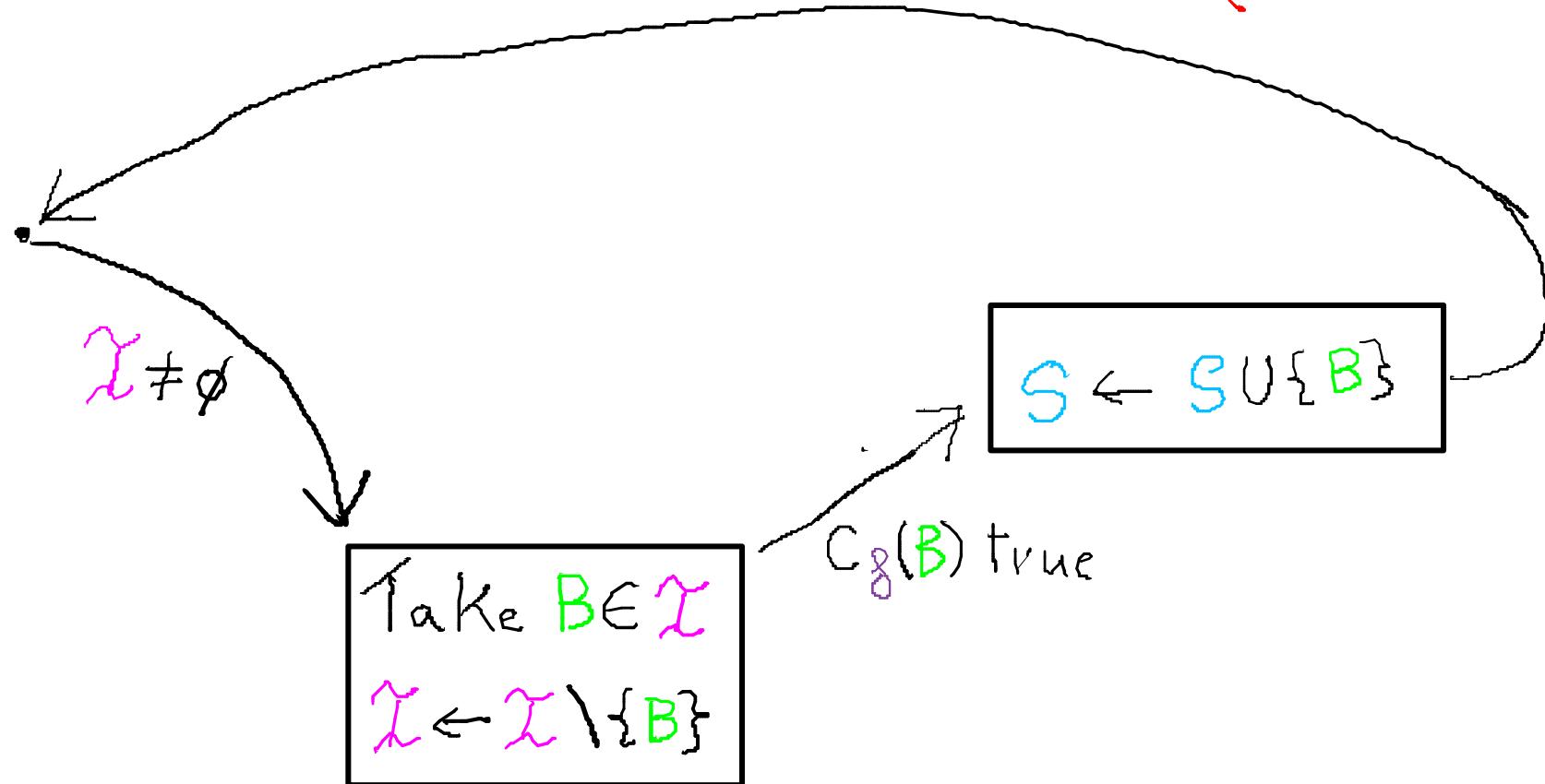
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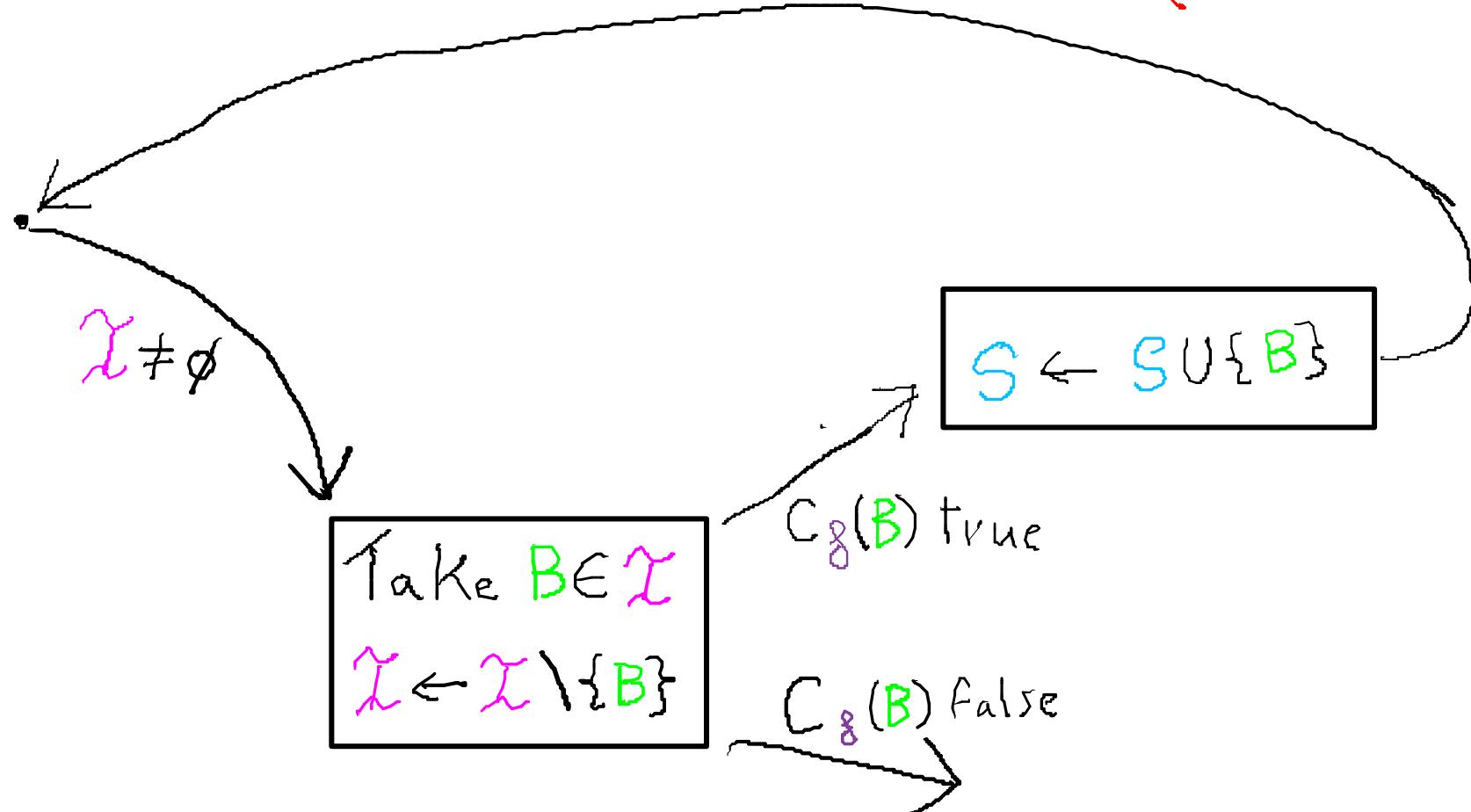
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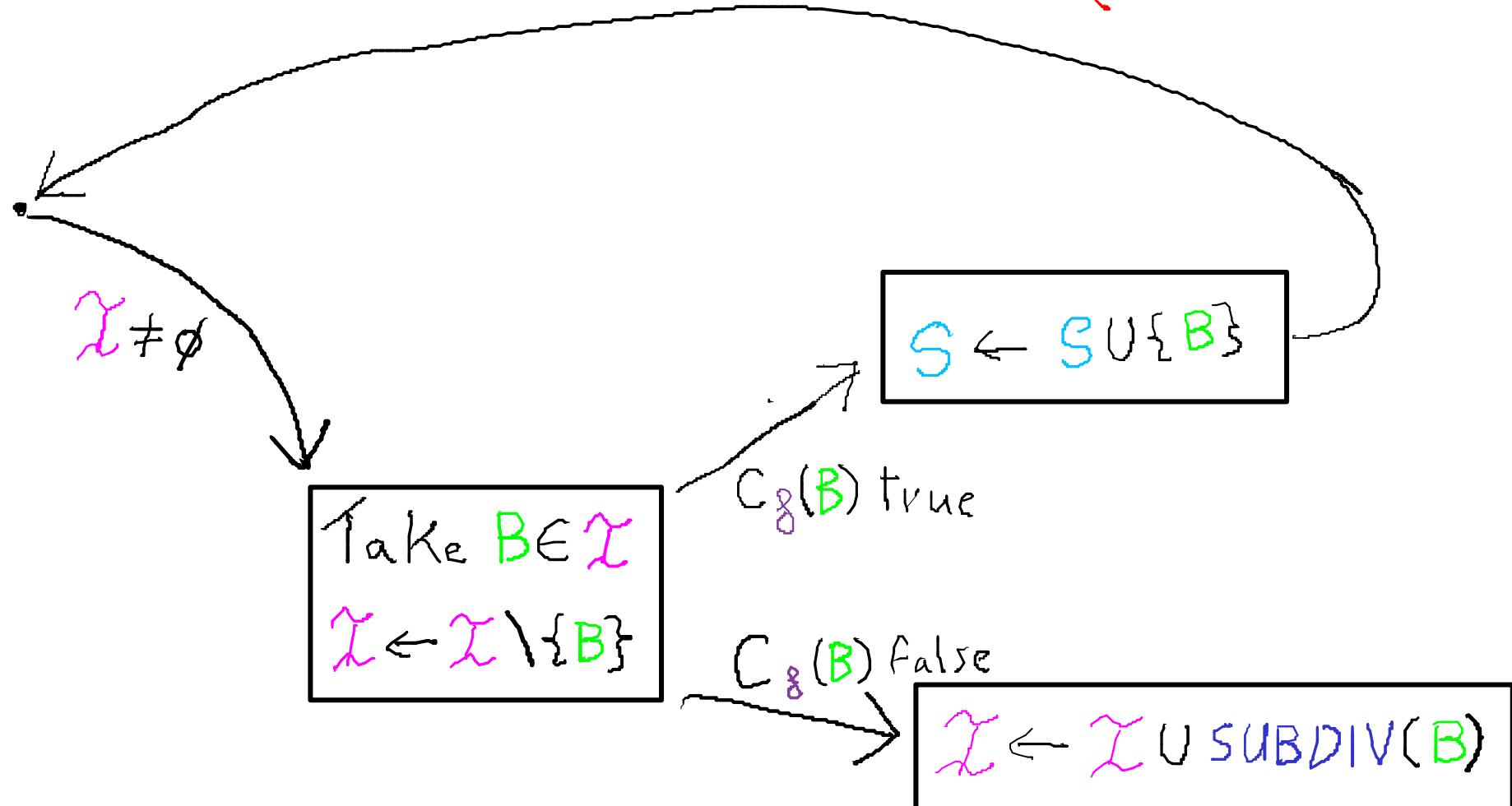
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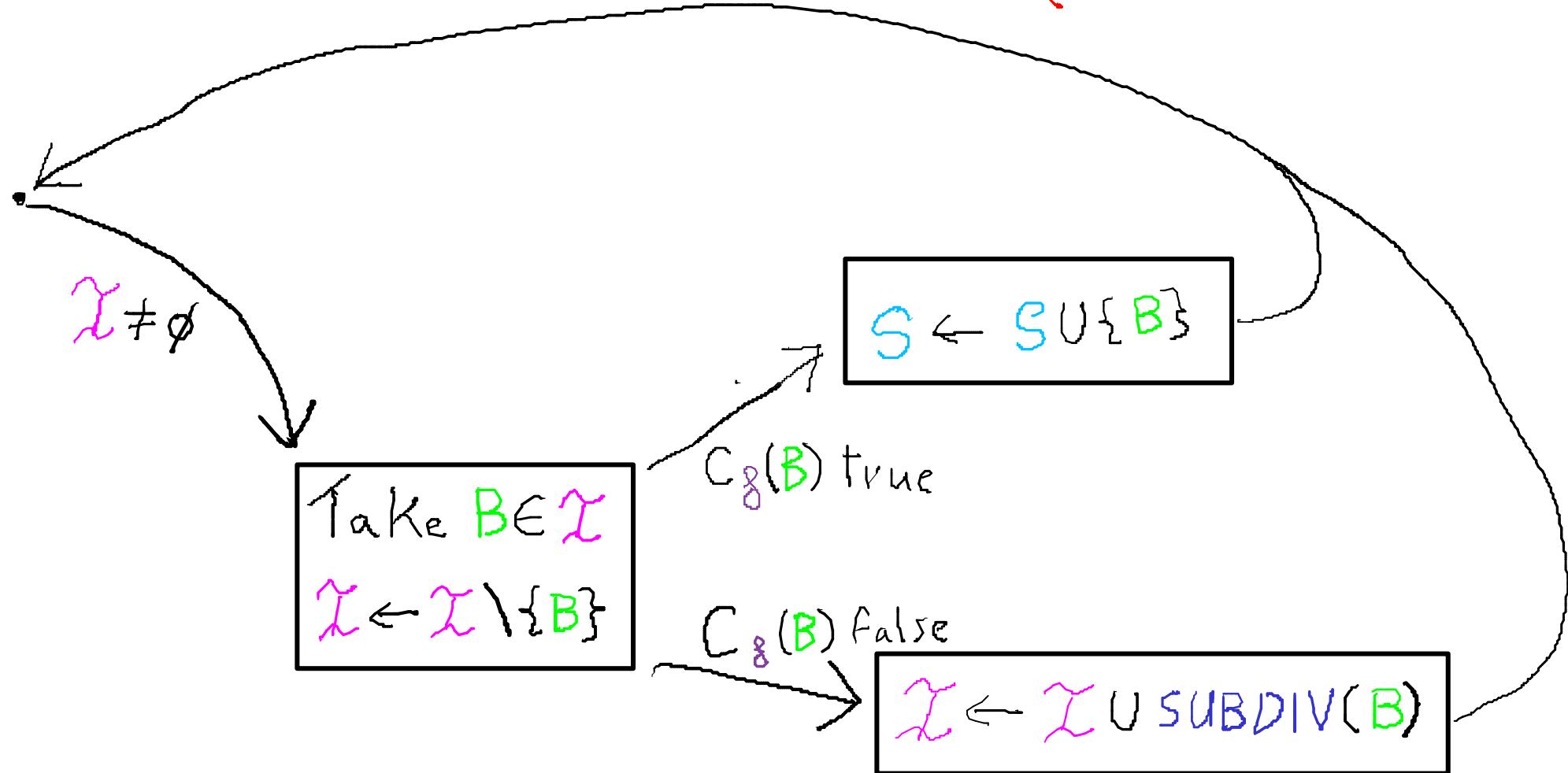
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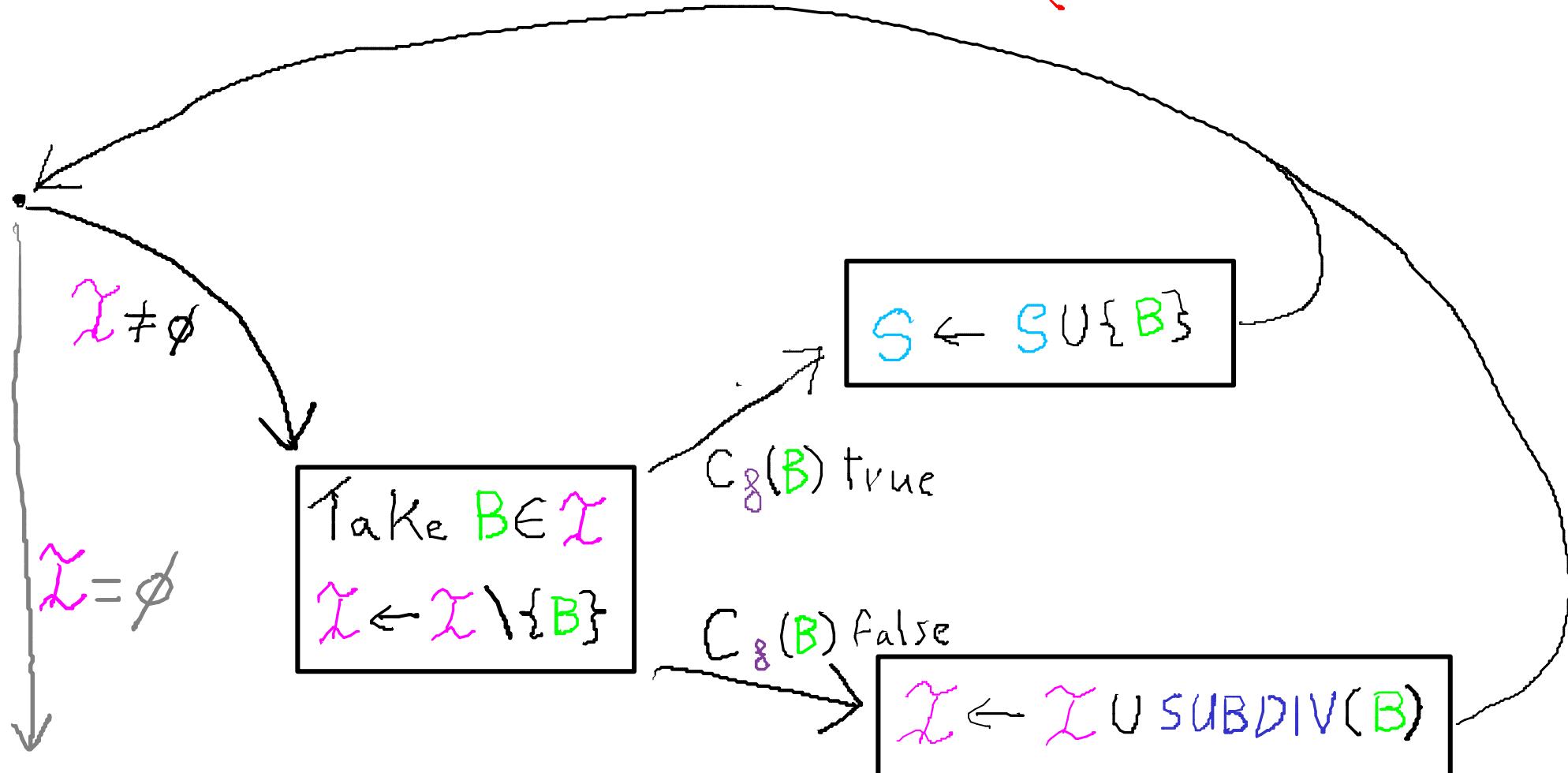
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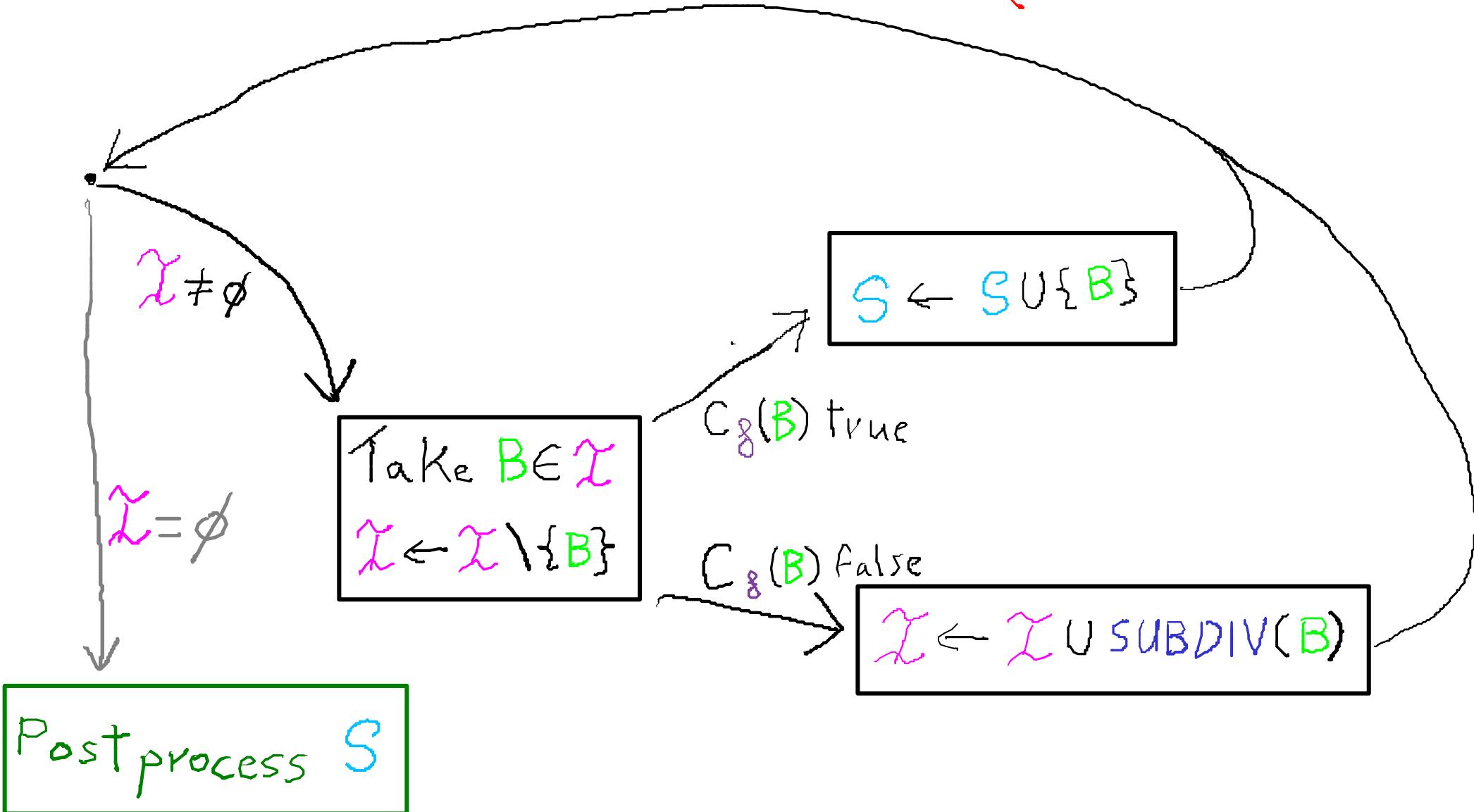
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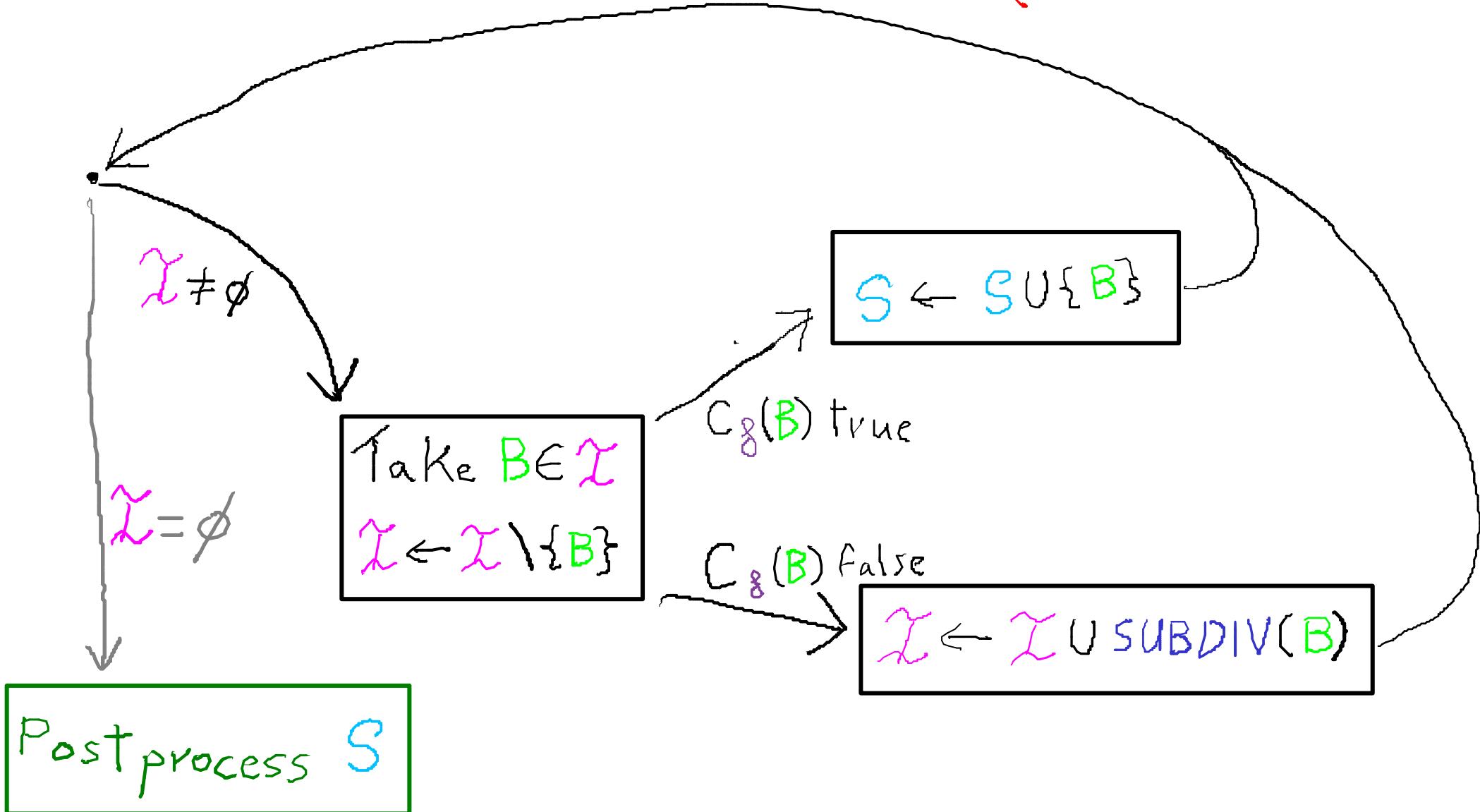


# PLANTINGA-VEGTER ALGORITHM (Abstract level)



# PLANTINGA-VEGTER ALGORITHM

(Abstract level)



Q: How do we check  $C_g(B)$ ?

# INTERVAL APPROXIMATIONS I

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DEF. An interval approximation of

$$F: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$$

# INTERVAL APPROXIMATIONS I

DEF. An interval approximation of

$$F: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$$

is a map

$$\square F: \square \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \square \mathbb{R}^m$$

where  $\square \mathbb{R}^k := \{ B \subseteq \mathbb{R}^k \mid B \text{ is a box} \}$

# INTERVAL APPROXIMATIONS I

DEF. An interval approximation of

$$F: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$$

is a map

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where  $\square \mathbb{R}^k := \{ B \subseteq \mathbb{R}^k \mid B \text{ is a box} \}$

such that For all  $B \in \square \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$F(B) \subseteq \square F(B)$$

COMPLEXITY CONTEXT for PV

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COMPLEXITY PARAMETERS

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INPUT

$$g \in \mathbb{R}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$$

OUTPUT

PL-approximation of  $\tilde{\chi}(g) \cap [-1, 1]$

COMPLEXITY PARAMETERS

$d$ : degree of  $g$

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$$g \in \mathbb{R}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$$

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PL-approximation of  $\tilde{z}(g) \cap [-1, 1]$

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MEASURE OF COMPLEXITY

Size of subdivision

# INTERVAL APPROXIMATIONS II

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$$\square \quad \|\nabla \underline{g}\|_1(B) := \nabla_{m(B)} \underline{g} + \sqrt{2^h d^2} \|\underline{g}\|_1 \left[ -\frac{w(B)}{2}, \frac{w(B)}{2} \right]$$

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THM.  $\square \underline{g}$  is an interval approx of  $g$

$\square \|\nabla \underline{g}\|_1$  is an interval approx of  $\|\nabla g\|_1$

# PLANTINGA-VEGTER CRITERION II

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THM.

$$C_g^\square(B) \Rightarrow C_g(B)$$

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Prop. If  $\mathbf{x} \in B$  and  $C(\mathbf{g}, \mathbf{x}) d \sqrt{2n} w(B) < 1$ ,

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then  $C_g^B(B)$  holds

# CONDITION-BASED ESTIMATE II

THM. The PV algorithm produces a subdivision with at most

$$2^{\frac{5}{2}n} n^{n/2} d^n \mathbb{E}_{x \in I^n} C(\delta, x)^n$$

boxes on  $\delta$

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Proof relies on continuous amortization by Burr, Krahmer & Yap

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$$2^{n \frac{3}{2}} (10(n+1))^{n+1} d^{2n} M^{n+2}$$

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PROBABILISTIC ESTIMATE III

GENERAL CASE: ZINTZO POLYNOMIALS

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THE MODEL IS ROBUST

So

PV algorithm

is also efficient in theory!

# THE FRAMEWORK IN ACTION II

the DESCARTES solver

Joint work with A.A. Ergür & E.Tsigaridas



Photo while working on this project

# Real Root Isolation I: The Problem

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We can also handle continuous inputs!

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Real Root Isolation II:

The State of the Art

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STURM SOLVER

$\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_B(d^4 \gamma^2)$

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## The State of the Art

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(Sagraloff & Mehlhorn; 2016)

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(Pan; 2002)

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PAN'S ALGORITHM

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(Pan; 2002)

Q: Can we beat the champion?

# Real Root Isolation III:

What do we wish?

$$\tilde{O}_B(d\gamma)$$

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What do we wish?

$$\tilde{O}_B(d\gamma)$$

We wish to find real roots  
almost as fast as we read the polynomial!

# DESCARTES SOLVER I: Rule of Signs

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$V(g) := \# \text{ sign variations of } g_0, g_1, \dots$

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Portrait by Frans Hals  
Source: Wikimedia Commons

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$V(\gamma) := \#$  sign variations of  $\gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots$

THM (Descartes' rule of signs)

$$\#\mathcal{Z}(\gamma, \mathbb{R}) \leq V(\gamma)$$



Portrait by Frans Hals  
Source: Wikimedia Commons

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THM (Descartes' rule of signs)

$$\#\mathcal{Z}(\gamma, \mathbb{R}) \leq V(\gamma)$$

Moreover,

$$V(\gamma) \leq 1 \Rightarrow \text{Equality}$$



Portrait by Frans Hals  
Source: Wikimedia Commons

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$$\#\mathcal{Z}(\gamma, \mathbb{R}) \leq V(\gamma)$$

Moreover,

$$V(\gamma) \leq 1 \Rightarrow \text{Equality}$$

COR

$$\#\mathcal{Z}(\gamma, (a, b)) \leq V(\gamma, (a, b)) := V\left((x+1)^d \cdot \gamma\left(\frac{bx+a}{x+1}\right)\right)$$

$\uparrow$   
 $(0, \infty) \xrightarrow{\text{bijection}} (a, b)$



Portrait by Frans Hals  
Source: Wikimedia Commons

DESCARTES SOLVER II:

The Descartes' Oracle

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1) Overcounting:  $\#Z(g, j) \leq V(g, j)$

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- 3) Exactness II:

$$\#Z(g, D(m(J), cw(J))) \leq K \Rightarrow V(g, J) \leq K$$

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Obreshkoff's Thm: DESCARTES sees the complex roots around!

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Obreshkoff's Thm: Descartes sees the complex roots around!

- 4) Subadditivity:

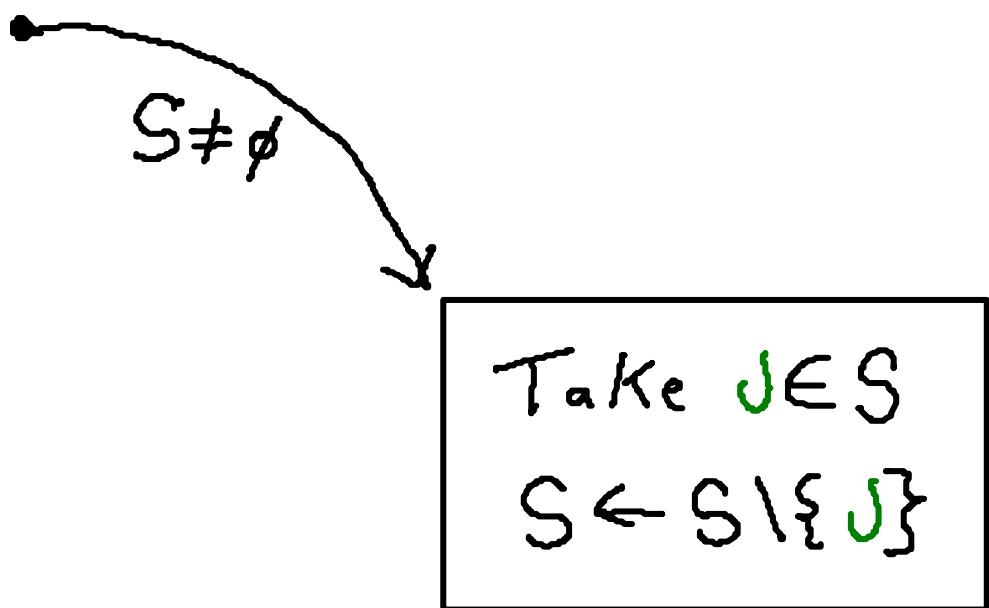
$$\bigcup_{J_i \subseteq J} \Rightarrow \sum V(g, J_i) \leq V(g, J)$$

DESCARTES SOLVER III:

The Algorithm

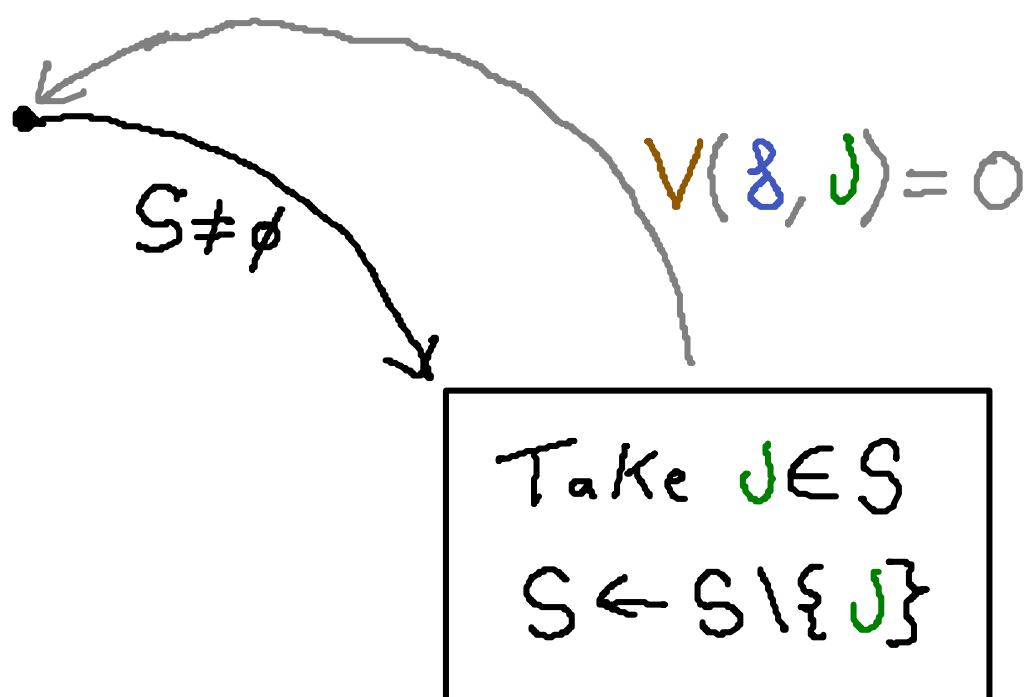
# DESCARTES SOLVER III:

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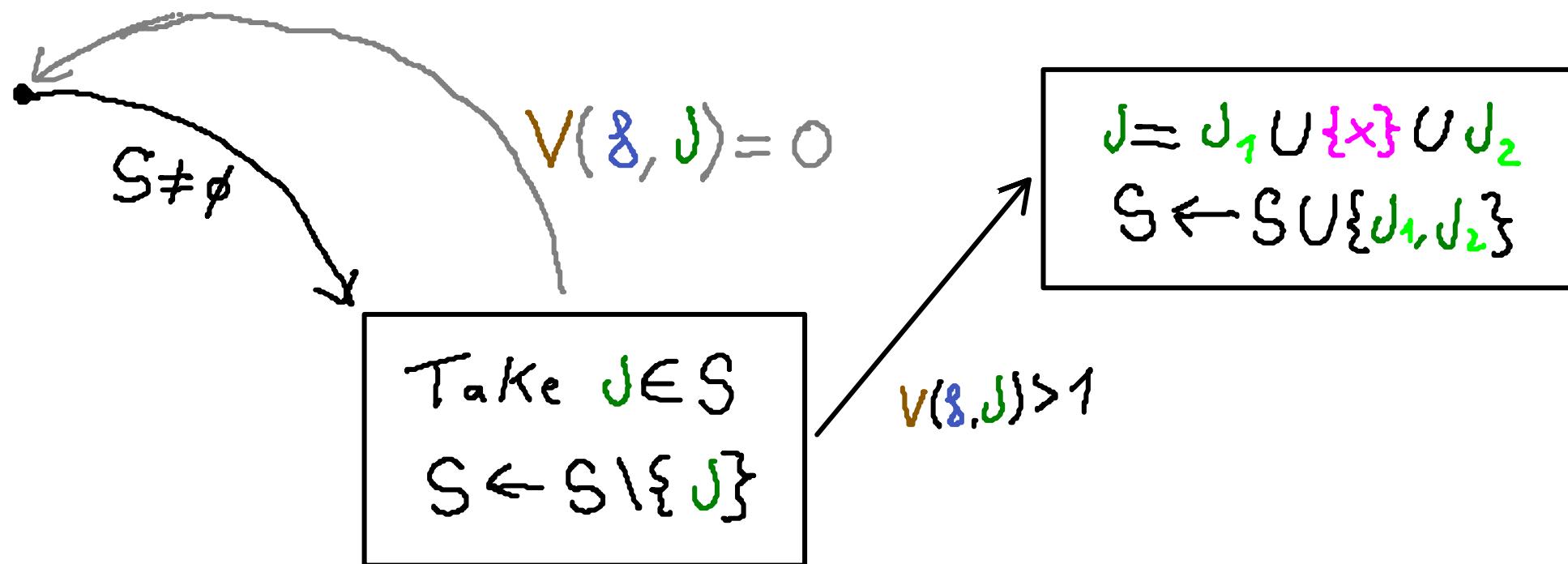
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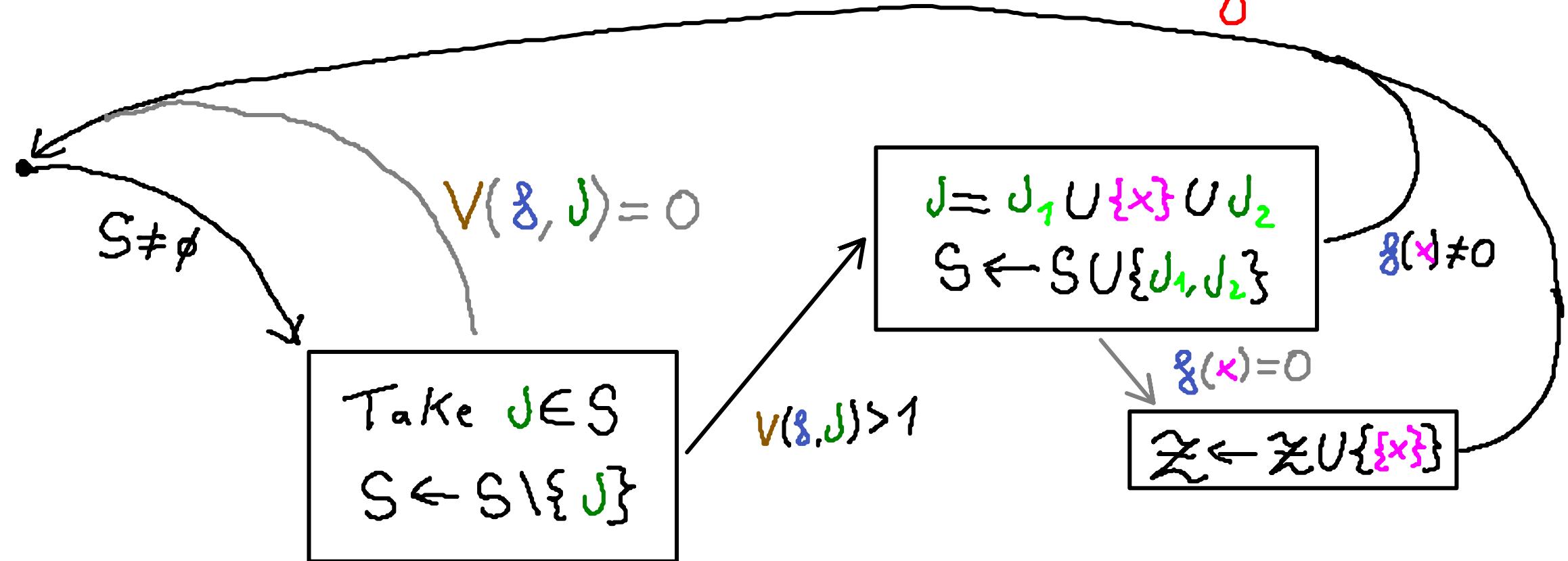
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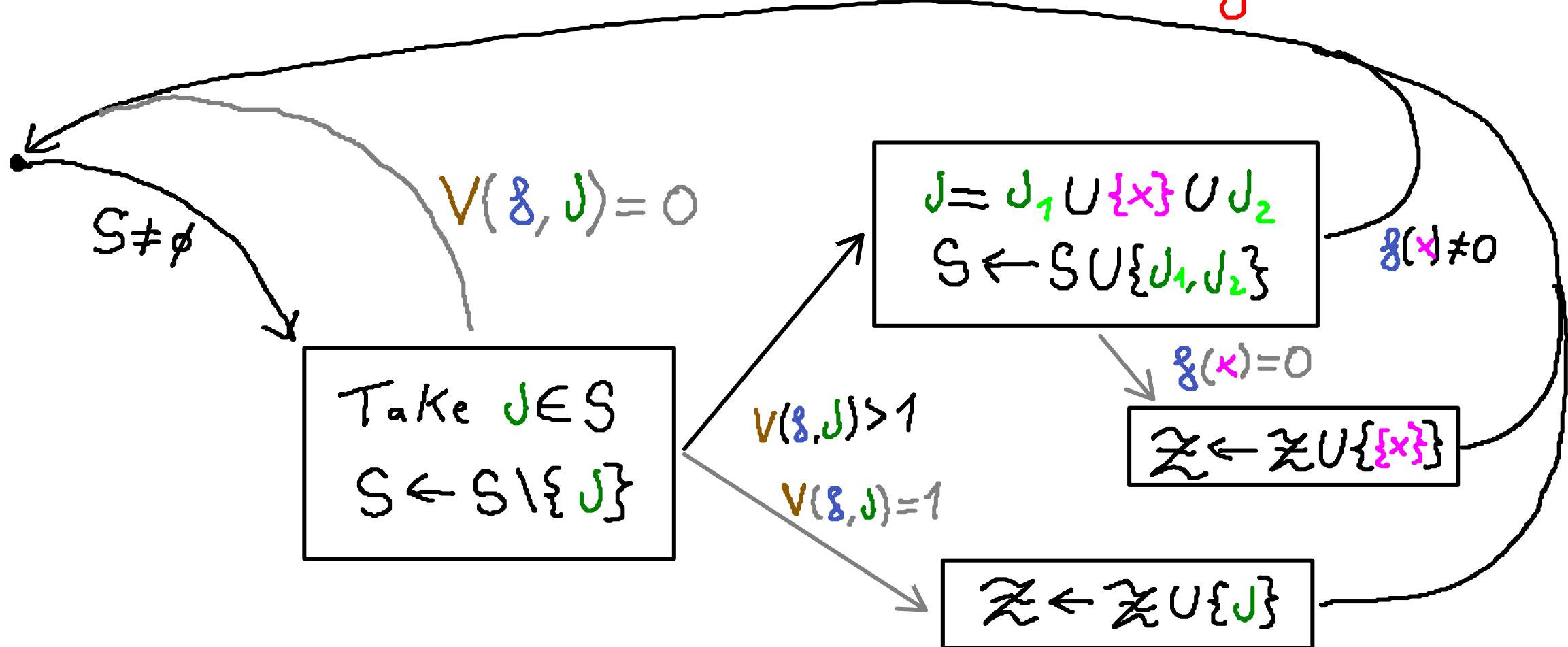
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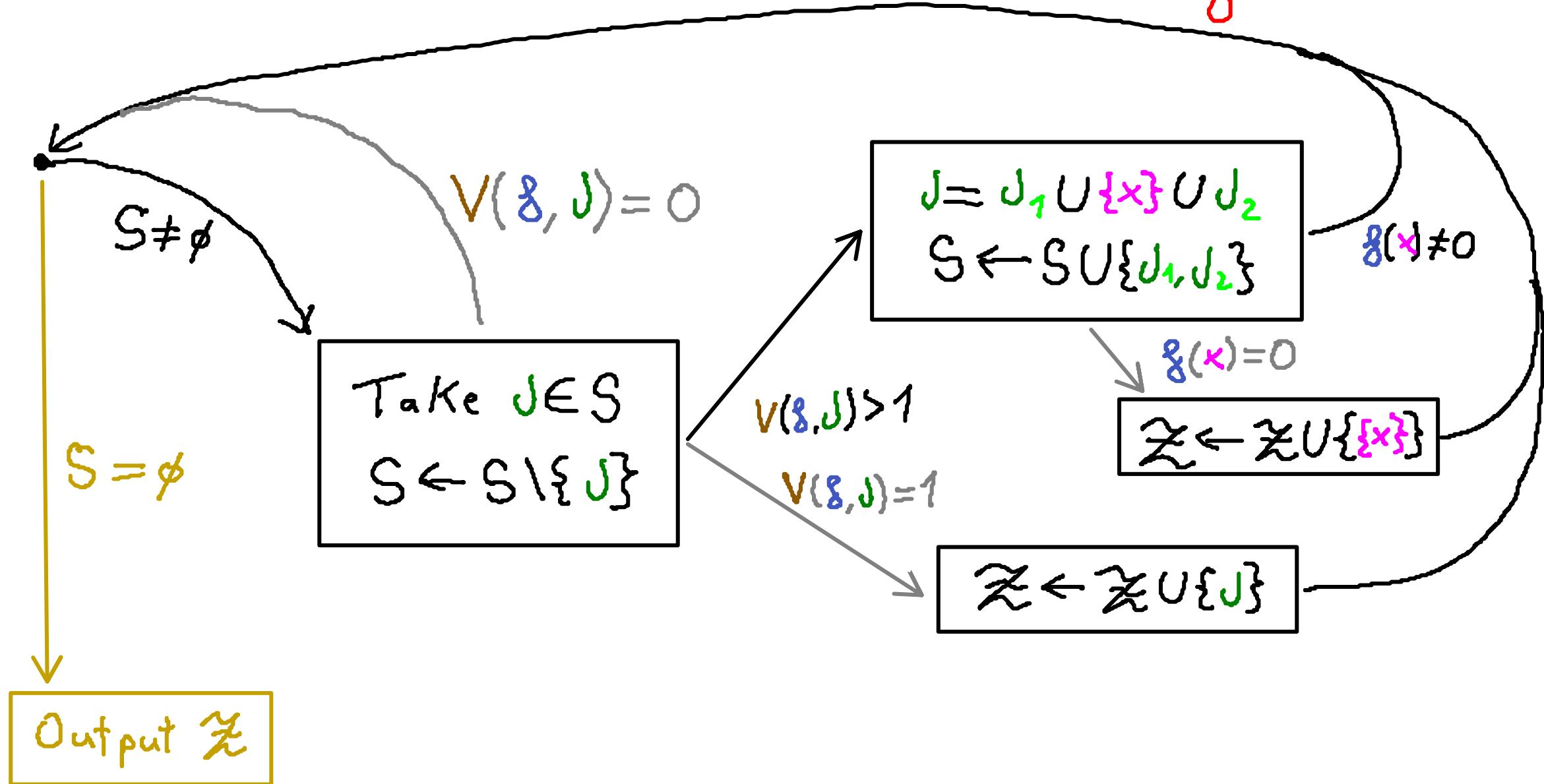
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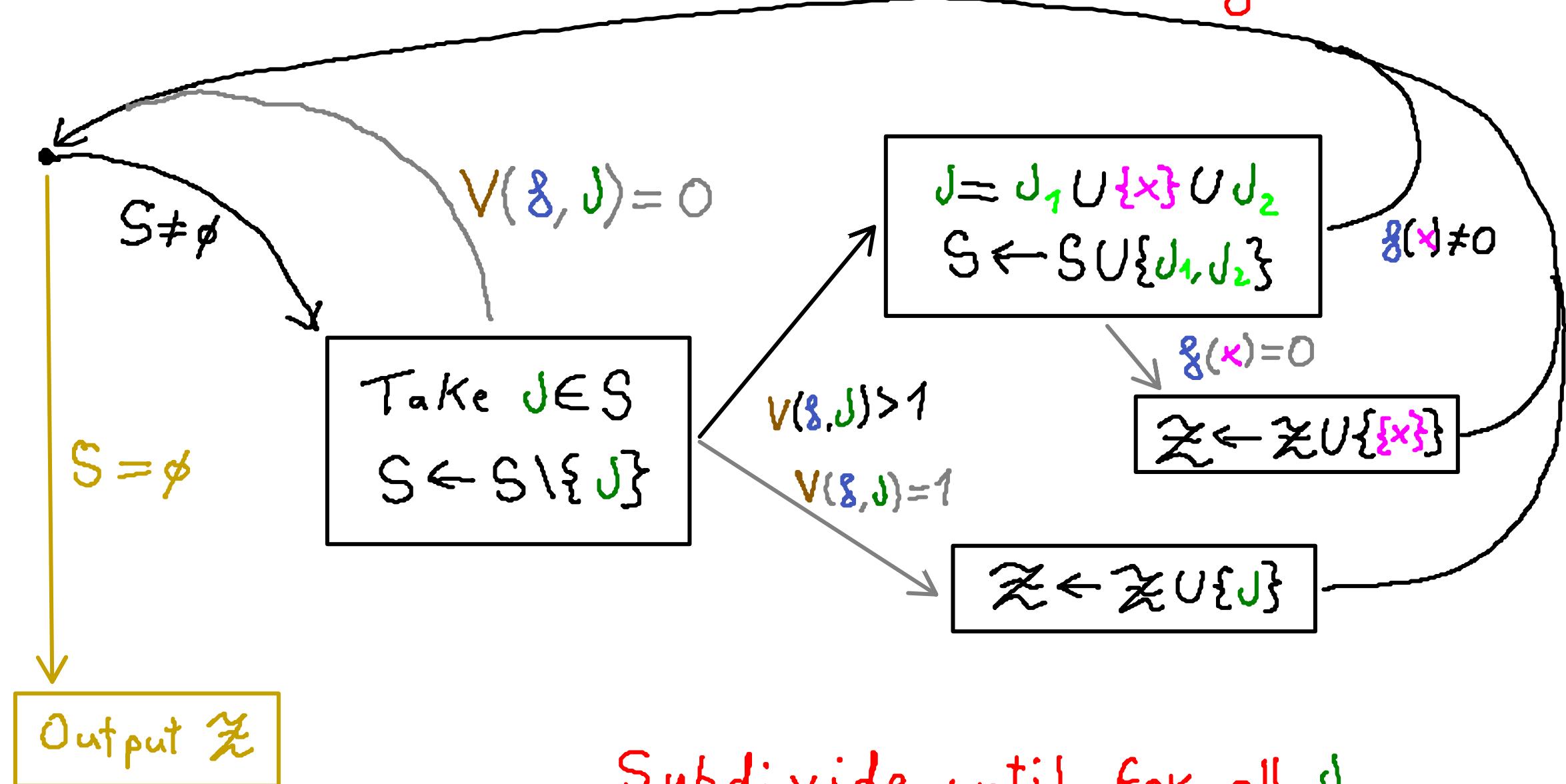
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# DESCARTES SOLVER III:

The Algorithm



Subdivide until for all  $J$ ,  
 $V(g, J) \leq 1$ !

DESCARTES SOLVER N:

Descartes' tree

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$\gamma(g, I)$

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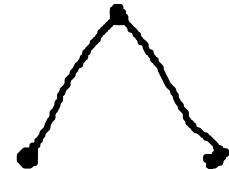
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.

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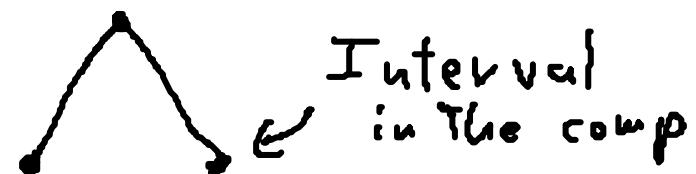
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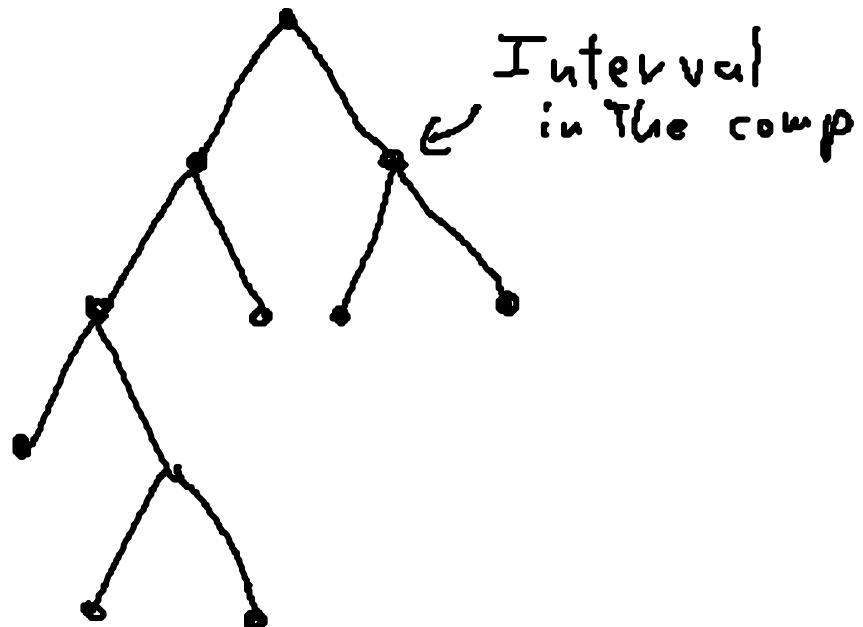
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Descartes' tree

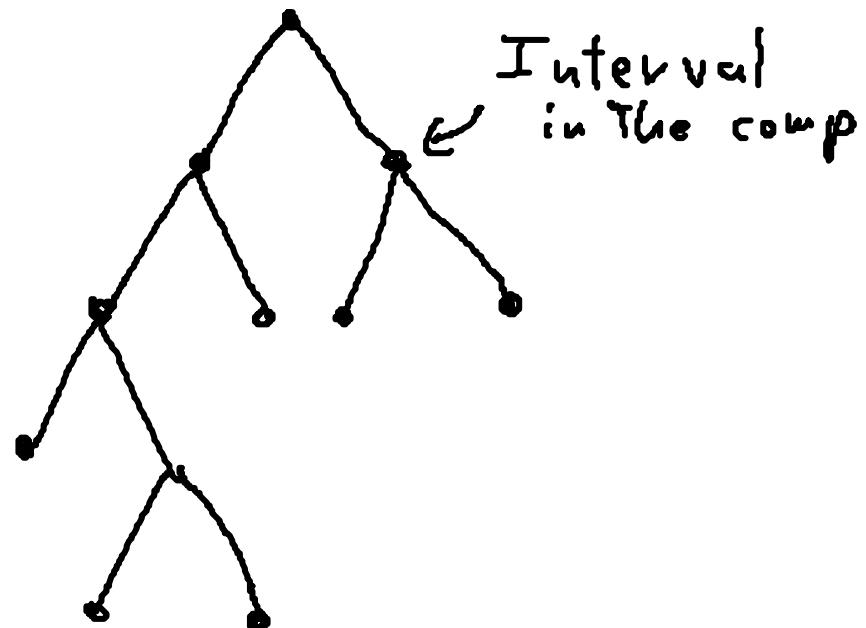
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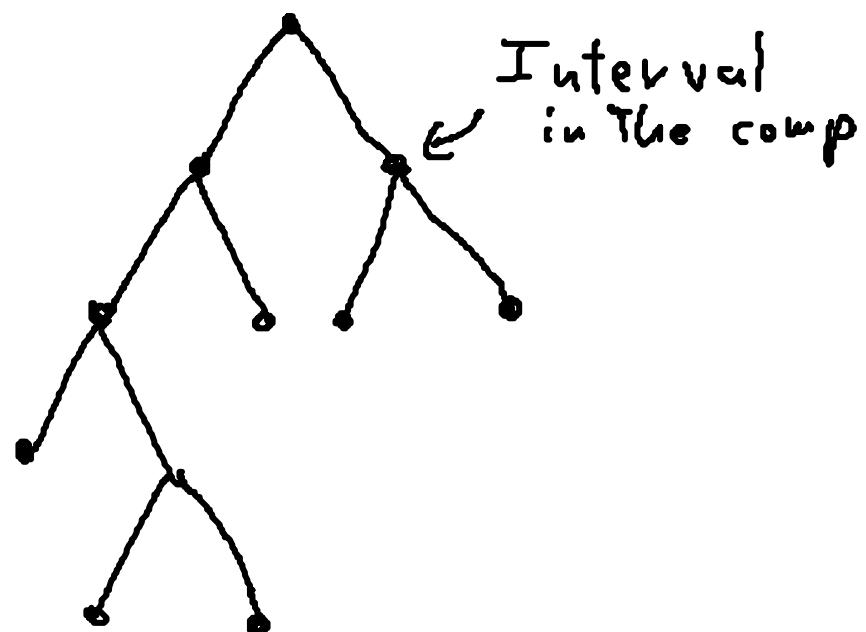


run-time of  $DESCARTES(g, I)$

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## Descartes' tree

$\gamma(g, I)$



size of  $\gamma(g, I)$



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We only need to control the size of subdiv. tree!

## Real Root Isolation IV:

Are we being pessimistic?

↓ Can we explain this?

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DESCARTES SOLVER

seems to behave faster in practice!

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Beyond Pessimism

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Yes, bounding

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↑  
Many choices of randomness 😱

Beyond pessimism I:  
Uniform Random Bit Polynomials  
& A SIMPLE MAIN THEOREM

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No middle indexes!

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uniformity of  $F$ :

$$u(F) := \ln(w(F)(1 + 2^{\gamma(F)+1}))$$

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- Support control  $\{0, 1, d-1, d\} \subseteq A$

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- Sign control  $\sigma \in \{-1, +1\}^{\{0, \dots, d\}}$

$$f = \sum_{k=1}^d f_k X^k \quad \text{with } f_k \sim \mathcal{U}(\sigma_k ([1, 2^\gamma] \cap \mathbb{N}))$$

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### Examples of Random Bit Polynomials II

- Exact bitsize

$$F = \sum_{k=1}^d F_k X^k \quad \text{with } F_k \sim \mathcal{U}\left(\{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid \lfloor \log n \rfloor = r\}\right)$$

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Our random model is flexible!

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 $\& u(F_\sigma) \leq 1 + u(F) + \max\{\gamma - \gamma(F), \gamma(\sigma)\}$

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- Upper bounds for depth of DESCARTES' tree

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Complex analysis!

Titchmarsh thm

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⚠ I am omitting a lot of technical details.

SUMMING UP:

DESCARTES

is almost optimal on average!

Eskerrik Asko

ZURE ARRETAGATIK!

I.e. Thank You For your attention!