On Interpolation and Congruence Closure Algorithms Technical Report

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Abstract

This report presents the activities during $Master\ Thesis\ I$ given by Prof. Deepak Kapur. We discuss algorithms to compute implicational closure, congruence closure and interpolants for quantifier-free theories of equality over uninterpreted symbols and octagonal formulas. Also, it is discussed the implementation of these algorithms, the results and performance obtained. Among the objectives of my thesis is the efficient implementation of Prof. Kapur's interpolation algorithms and compare performance with $state\ of\ the\ art\ algorithms$ for the same theories, mainly using as a reference the SAT solver $MathSAT\ 5$.

1 Implicational Closure

This section discusses the implicational closure algorithm in [3]. The author of the previous paper refers to the problem of satisfiability of propositional Horn Clauses. We use the term 'implicational closure' as the algorithm that solves the satisfiability problem of propositional Horn Clauses. Later in the paper, we use implicational closure as part of other algorithms.

It is well known from literature that the Boolean satisfiabity problem (SAT) for propositional formulas is NP-complete [1]. Nonetheless, if we restrict the class of propositional formulas to Horn Clauses then it is shown in [3] the existance of linear algorithm capable to compute an interpretation for the propositional variables if the formula is satisfiable, otherwise it halts returning 'unsatisfiable formulas' as a result. For a precise explanation of Horn Clauses, let us provide the following definitions:

Definition 1. [6] Let \mathfrak{L} be a first-order language. If A is an atomic formula then A and $\neg A$ are called literals. An literal formula A is called positive literal is A is not of the form $\neg B$ for some atomic formula B.

Definition 2. [6] A Horn clause is a disjunction of formulas containing a most one positive literal. A Horn formula is a conjunction of Horn clauses.

From the last definition, we can notice two trivial classes of Horn clauses:

• A does not contain a positive literal: Then A is of the form $\neg P_1 \lor \cdots \lor \neg P_n$ with $n \ge 1$, where each P_i is an atomic formula. Equivalently, we can express the above formula as $(P_1 \land \cdots \land P_n) \to \bot$ where bot is an unsatisfiable formula (bottom particle).

• A contains one positive literal: Then A is of the form $Q \vee \neg P_1 \vee \cdots \vee \neg P_n$ with $n \geq 0$, where each P_i is an atomic formula. Similarly, we can express A as $(P_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge P_n) \rightarrow Q$.

We prefer the second 'representation' of Horn clauses due to connections with logic programming. For convenience, we take standard terminology from logic programming including body(H) to denote the set of formulae in the precedent of a Horn clause H, and head(H) as the formula in the consequent of a Horn clause H. From this context, a Horn clause with exactly one positive literal with n=0 is called a 'fact', and if n>0 then the Horn clause is denoted as a 'rule'.

The key insight of Gallier's algorithm is precisely the observation mentioned above about the relation between satisfiability of propositional Horn formulas and implicational closure. The latter only implies the computation of the following closure \mathfrak{C} :

- If $\vdash P$ then $P \in \mathfrak{C}$
- If $P_1 \in \mathfrak{C}, P_2 \in \mathfrak{C}, \dots, P_n \in \mathfrak{C}$ and $(P_1 \wedge P_2 \wedge \dots \wedge P_n) \to Q \in \mathfrak{C}$ then $Q \in \mathfrak{C}$

We notice that the latter closure \mathfrak{C} can be understood as the set that includes all 'facts' of the Horn formula, and successively applies the 'Modus Ponens' rules to include new facts from rules if possible. Gallier's algorithm systematically does this process using a 'queue' in order to avoid unnecessary Modus Ponens calls. Indeed, his algorithm performs this process partially. For each atomic formula, the author includes atomic formulae extra variable to keep track of its current truth value.

- Step 1. Initially, all truth values for atomic formulae are set to false and changed only if such atomic formulae are facts in the Horn formula.
- Step 2. Any atomic formula that has changed its truth values from false to true are pushed into a queue. Two additional data structures keep track of which Horn clauses include a given atomic formula, and the number of unsatisfied atomic formulae in the body for each Horn clause. Intuitively, if the number of unsatisfied formulae in a Horn clause is zero means that the head of the Horn clause should be included in the closure.
- Step 3. If the queue is empty, then halt and indicate that the Horn formula is satisfiable; the truth assignment for each atomic formula is already stored in the extended representation mentioned above. Otherwise, pop the first element from the queue and repeat Step 2.

From the previous description of Gallier's algorithm we can see that the time required is $\mathcal{O}(n)$ where n is the number of atomic formulae in the Horn formula since any atomic formula is never pushed more than once into the queue.

2 Congruence Closure

This problem is a generalization of the previous problem including first-order formulas (constant and functional symbols) and equality between terms. Let TERMS(H) be the set of terms in the Horn formula H. Special attention is given to functional symbols, which they are uninterpreted. Equations are handled using the UNION-FIND data structure. If there exist In [5], the author introduces to graphs to represent information about the Horn formula. The first graph is the graph of subterm dependencies GT(H) in the Horn formula H, where all subterms form the vertices of the graph and a directed edges from node x to y is y is a subformula of x.

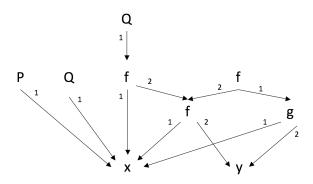


Figure 1: Graph of subterm dependencies for the Horn formula $P(x): -f(g(x,y), f(x,y)) = y, x = f(x,y) \land Q(f(x,f(x,y))) \land : -Q(x)$

The second graph GC(H) encodes the relation between the terms in the Horn formula H, i.e. the vertices are the equations (a predicate P can be 'transformed' into an equation of the form P = T) present in the H (which doesn't include all subterms necessarily), and there is a directed edge between vertices x and y with label C if there exists a Horn clause C such that x = head(C) and $y \in body(C)$. The reason for the direction of the edges in GC(H) is because for each node x in this graph we can check their 'successors' with label C (technically the atomic formulas in the body of the Horn clause C) and decide if we should merge the elements in the equation of x using the UNION-FIND data structure.

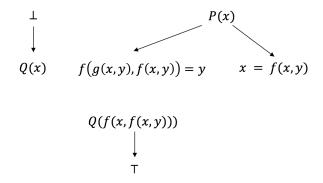


Figure 2: Graph of equations in the Horn formula $P(x):-f(g(x,y),f(x,y))=y, x=f(x,y) \land Q(f(x,f(x,y))) \land :-Q(x)$

It is important to mention that the author in [5] generalizes the concept of equality to describe different types, i.e. we can have more than one equality between terms. Nonetheless, for the purpose of our work only one equality is needed between terms. For the latter, some modifications to the definitions are done in order to keep consistency with our goals.

Also, the author distinguishes two types of closures: in order to compute the congruence closure of a set of ground Horn clauses implicational and equational. The implicational closure is essentially the same as described before in the previous section with the minor change of extending the propositional formulas to free first-order formulas with equalities. A formal definition of the equational closure is given as follows:

Definition 3. [5] Let GT(H) be a graph of subterm dependencies for a given grounded Horn formula H with equalities. An equational congruence on GT(H) is a family R of relations R_i (partitions) over TERMS(H) iff:

- Each R_i is an equivalence relation.
- For every pair (u, v) in $TERMS(H) \times TERMS(H)$, if the functional names of the terms u, v are the same (i.e. they are either both constants or both functions with same name), $u \in R_i$, and for each argument of u and v they belong to some relation R_i then uR_iv .

The combination of both implicational and equational closure leads to the congruence closure of a given theory. In fact, the author proved in [5] the existance of such closure by interleaving both implicational and equational closure. Nonetheless, extracting an algorithm from the constructive proof mentioned above would lead to an inefficient algorithm for computing the congruence closure. Instead, the author systematically combines a similar approach of implicational closure as we studied before on the previous section and adding the equational closure component by merging terms using the UNION-FIND data structure. It is not hard to see that implicational closure can produce more equations to be merged and the equational closure can lead to new equations to be satisfiable in the body for Horn clauses. Nonetheless, since there is a finite number of atomic formulae (equations) and a finite number of Horn clauses, then by interleaving both closures we can guarantee termination.

The algorithm mentioned in [5] is an extended version of the algorithm in [3] including an equational congruence algorithm that checks for the equational closure mentioned above and the data structure UNION-FIND to deal with equations. There are two versions of this algorithm. The first one uses a procedure to compute the equational congruence checking the sucessor for the terms involved each time. As a result, the running time of the algorithm is $\mathcal{O}(mn)$, where m is the number of Horn clauses and n is the number of atomic formulae. A second refinement utilizes the fast congruence closure algorithm [4] which obtains a $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ running time. In order to become an efficient implementation, several data structures are considered. For each equation in the Horn formula, we add two records containing the representative element of the left hand side term and the right hand side term respectively. When merging terms into an equivalence class, it is considered as the representative the element which has more terms in the tree representation of the respective equivalence class, hence a 'modify the smaller half' heuristic is achieved. This last heuristic plays an important role to obtain the running time of the algorithm.

As a side comment, the literature is inconsistent at this point in the sense that different authors use the same name to describe different problems. In the latter, the term congruence closure refers to a similar notion of equational closure as studied before in the previous section.

A 'signature' for a functional symbol of the form $f(x_1,...,x_n)$ with $n \geq 1$, in the sense of [4], corresponds to the n-tuple $(\alpha(1),...,\alpha(n))$, where the function $\alpha: TERMS(H) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is a mapping from the set of terms in the Horn formula to a natural number that encodes the respective partition in the family of relations R. The fast congruence closure algorithm described in [4] considers two terms to be 'congruent' is their 'signatures' are the same. Contrary to the notion of signature in [5], the signature does no include the name of the respectively terms. Nonetheless, we can always include functional symbol name as one of the arguments in the functional symbol signature.

The key addition of the fast congruence closure algorithm is the 'Signature Table'. Together with a UNION-FIND data structure updates only the elements and their signatures as needed, whereas the previous algorithm updates all terms signatures all the time, even when they might not be used in the future. Let us describe the operations of these data structures:

UNION-FIND operations:

• find(v): Given a vertex v in GT(H), return the name of the equivalence class containing v.

- list(e): Given a representation e for some equivalence class, return the list of vertices with at least one successor in e, i.e. return the set of predecessors for all vertices v such that $v \in e$.
- $union(e_1, e_2)$: Given two disjoint equivalent classes e_1, e_2 , combine e_1, e_2 into a single equivalence class with e_1 as representative.

SIGNATURE-TABLE operations:

- enter(v): Given a vertex v from GT(H), store v in the signature table with its current signature.
- delete(v): Given a vertex v from GT(H), delete v from the signature table if it is present.
- query(v): Given a vertex v from GT(H), if there exists a vertex w in GT(H) stored in the signature table with same signature as v, then return w; otherwise return Λ .

Two additional sets are needed to keep track of the changes made by the algorithm. The set pending which is a list of vertices to be entered in the signature table, typically this set is updated when elements are being merged in the UNION-FIND data structure (equational closure); and combine, which is a list of pairs of vertices whose equivalence classes are to be combined, this structure is updated after performing implicational closure on the current set of terms and signatures. The fast congruence closure algorithm is shown in **Algorithm 1**.

One invariant of this algorithm is that the signature table stores vertices in such a way that a signature is never repeated. This fact comes from observing the for loop at lines 4 - 10. In fact, any vertex stored at the signature table is the has the most updated signature and its the representative of the equivalence class.

Regarding implementation details, it is important to mention that the authors perform a linear transformation on GT(H) such that any functional symbol contains at most two successors. This is done by a 'currying' the formula, i.e. for any functional symbol x with 1 or 2 successors return the same vertex representation; otherwise, if the number of successors of x is x with x is a number of x, then introduce a new functional symbol and recursively solve for the last x and its first argument of x and x.

After applying this currying process, all terms will contain at most two arguments/successors. Because of that, the signature table only requires to deal with two parts, with the terms with one successor and terms with two successors. The first part can easily achieve $\mathcal{O}(1)$ running time in all the operations using an array. For the second part, the authors propose several implementation with different data structures like balanced binary trees, hash tables, arrays of arrays, etc. Naturally, different running times are achieved in both running time and space complexity.

To illustrate the algorithm, an example by hand is shown below applying the fast congruence closure to the equivalence classes $C_0 = \{\{a, b, f^3a, f^5a\}_1, \{fa\}_2, \{fb\}_3, \{f^2a\}_4, \{f^4a\}_5\}$:

- $C_0 = \{\{a, b, f^3a, f^5a\}_1, \{fa\}_2, \{fb\}_3, \{f^2a\}_4, \{f^4a\}_5\}$
- $\bullet \ pending = \{fa, fb, f^2a, f^3a, f^4a, f^5a\}$
- $\bullet \ list(1) = \{fa,fb,f^4a\}; \ list(2) = \{f^2a\}; \ list(3) = \{\}; \ list(4) = \{f^3a\}; \ list(5) = \{f^5a\}; \ list(6) = \{f^5a\};$
- $combine = \{\}$
- $sig_table = \{(fa, (1))\}$

```
pending = \{v \in V_1 | d(v) \ge 1\};
while pending \neq do
    combine = \emptyset;
   for each v \in pending do
       if query(v) = \Lambda then
           enter(v);
       else
           add (v, query(v)) to combine;
       end
    end
   pending = \emptyset;
   for each (v, w) \in combine do
       if find(v) \neq find(w) then
           if |list(find(v))| < |list(find(w))| then
               for each u \in list(find(v)) do
                   delete(u);
                   add u to pending;
               end
               union(find(w), find(v));
           else
               for each u \in list(find(w)) do
                   delete(u);
                   add u to pending;
               union(find(v), find(w))
       end
    end
\quad \text{end} \quad
                 Algorithm 1: The fast congruence closure algorithm
• combine = \{(fa, fb)\}
• sig\_table = \{(fa, (1)), (f^2a, (2))\}
• sig\_table = \{(fa, (1)), (f^2a, (2)), (f^3a, (4))\}
• combine = \{(fa, fb), (fa, f^4a)\}
```

```
tombine = \{(fa, fb)\}\}
sig_table = \{(fa, (1)), (f^2a, (2))\}
sig_table = \{(fa, (1)), (f^2a, (2)), (f^3a, (4))\}\}
combine = \{(fa, fb), (fa, f^4a)\}
sig_table = \{(fa, (1)), (f^2a, (2)), (f^3a, (4)), (f^5a, (5))\}\}
pending = \{\}
C_1 = \{\{a, b, f^3a, f^5a\}\}_1, \{fa, fb\}_2, \{f^2a\}_4, \{f^4a\}_5\}
sig_table = \{(fa, (1)), (f^2a, (2)), (f^3a, (4))\}
pending = \{f^5a\}
C_2 = \{\{a, b, f^3a, f^5a\}\}_1, \{fa, fb, f^4a\}_2, \{f^2a\}_4\}
list(1) = \{fa, fb, f^4a\}; list(2) = \{f^2a, f^5a\}; list(3) = \{\}; list(4) = \{f^3a\}; list(5) = \{\}
```

- $combine = \{\}$
- $combine = \{(f^2a, f^5a)\}$
- $pending = \{\}$
- $sig_table = \{(fa, (1)), (f^2a, (2))\}$
- $pending = \{f^3a\}$
- $C_3 = \{\{a, b, f^3a, f^5a, f^2a\}_1, \{fa, fb, f^4a\}_2\}$
- $list(1) = \{fa, fb, f^4a, f^3a\}; list(2) = \{f^2a, f^5a\}; list(3) = \{\}; list(4) = \{\}; list(5) = \{\}$
- $combine = \{\}$
- $combine = \{(f^3a, fa)\}$
- $pending = \{\}$
- $sig_table = \{(fa, (1))\}$
- $pending = \{f^2a, f^5a\}$
- $C_4 = \{\{a, b, f^3a, f^5a, fa, fb, f^2a f^4a\}_1\}$
- $combine = \{\}$
- $combine = \{(f^2a, fa)\}$
- $combine = \{(f^2a, fa), (f^5a, fa)\}$
- $pending = \{\}$
- halt

3 Interpolation Algorithms for quantifier-free EUF and octagonal formulas

In this section we discuss the novel algorithms by Prof. Kapur. First of all, we will explain basic notions of interpolants will the goal to understand the key ideas for Kapur's algorithms.

Definition 4. Given formulas α, β for some theory T such that $\vdash \alpha \to \beta$, then a formula γ is called an interpolant of the pair (α, β) if $\vdash \alpha \to \gamma, \vdash \gamma \to \beta$, and γ contains only common symbols of α and β . A theory T is interpolating if for all pair of formulas (α, β) such that $\vdash \alpha \to \beta$, and interpolant γ of (α, β) can be computed.

In 1957, Craig [2] proved that any theory in first-order logic is interpolating. An equivalent formulation of the interpolating property as suggested by Prof. Kapur in one of his talks is that for a pair (α, β) such that $\alpha \wedge \beta$ is unsatisfiable (i.e. $\vdash \alpha \to \neg \beta$), a formula γ is an interpolant of (α, β) if $\vdash \alpha \to \gamma$ and $\vdash \neg (\gamma \wedge \beta)$.

From the latter interpolant formula point of view, we can characterize Prof. Kapur's approach in both of his algorithm as follows. In hindsight, the basic idea is to perform a collection of 'reductions' to the formula $\alpha \wedge \beta$ until a fixed point is found. Any sequence of these reductions keep the invariant that for the 'current interpolant formula' γ with respect to the pair (α, β) it satisfies $\vdash \alpha \rightarrow \gamma$ and $\vdash \neg(\gamma \wedge \beta)$, on the other hand the requirement for γ to only contain

common symbols of α, β is achieved only when there are no more sequence of reductions to be performed.

Initially, Prof. Kapur's algorithm choose as initial formula the conjunction $\gamma = \alpha \land \neg \beta$ as the current interpolant formula. This formula satisfies the invariant proposed above since $\vdash \alpha \to \alpha$ (tautology), and $\vdash \alpha \to \neg \beta$ (by assumption), thus $\vdash \alpha \to \gamma$. Similarly, we can see that $(\alpha \land \neg \beta \land \beta)$ is unsatisfiable for any α, β . Any sequence of reductions satisfy the invariant below because $\vdash \gamma \to \gamma'$, where γ' is a reduced formula from γ . It is worth mentioning that Kapur's algorithm guarantees to remove all uncommon symbols in the current interpolanting formula. With the latter fact and the invariant mentioned below we can conclude that the current interpolating formula will become an interpolant formula of the pairs (α, β) .

3.1 Interpolation algorithm for quantifier-free EUF

This algorithm requires six steps. The first one (preprocessing) performs a flattening process, which is similar to a well-known algorithm known as the Tseytin transform [?]. The equations obtained after performing this process are of the form: $f(c_1,...,c_k) = d, c = d, c \neq d$, where f is a functional symbol and each c_i , c and d are constants. It is important to mention that flattening might introduce new symbols, hence in order to distinguish these symbols if they are common or uncommon symbol Kapur introduced a definition where a new symbol is common if and only all the symbols in the other term of the equation are common symbols.

The second step generates equivalence classes using the equations obtained in the last step. Using the UNION-FIND data structure we keep track of the representatives of these classes, prefering common expressions (expression with only common symbols) as representatives. The last step might require performing rotations in the three representation, so the UNION-FIND data structure maintains its properties and running times. For the congruence relation components the algorithm mentioned above is used. The algorithm then replaces all terms in the set of expressions by their representative in the equivalence class they belong to. If we obtained equivalence classes with non-common representatives (by construction the rest of the elements in this class are non-common as well) we can delete it.

The third step involves eliminating uncommon functions symbols. This happens when a functional symbol f is non-common. Thus, we take all expressions containing the functional symbol f of the form $f(c_1, \ldots, c_k) = c$, $f(d_1, \ldots, d_k) = d$ and we remove them from the set of expression, introducing the expression $(c_1 = d_1, \ldots, c_k = d_k) \to c = d$. Since this expression is a Horn clause, many of the algorithms studied before play a crucial role in this algorithm. A forth step exposes uncommon constants inside functional symbols. Essentially the same process as in step 3 is done.

The fifth step we eliminate uncommon symbols conditionally, i.e. we include the conditions (body of the Horn clause) needed for a specific equality (head of the respective Horn clause) to occurs. There are several cases:

- The body of Horn clause C consists of common expressions and the head of C contains an uncommon term u on only one side of the equation. We conditionally eliminate u in the rest of Horn clauses that contain u. We then eliminate C from the current interpolant formula since there is no way to eliminate the uncommon expression u.
- The body of Horn clause C consists of common expressions and the head of C contains only uncommon terms. Then, we can do the same as in the previous case with the difference that we replace the equation in the head of the Horn clause C by a symbol \top which means satisfiable (true).

The last step only states that the obtained current interpolating formula is the interpolant of the pair (α, β) .

3.2 Interpolation algorithm for octagonal formulas

Contrary to the last interpolantion algorithm, this algorithm uses the simplification rules:

$$ax_{i} + by_{j} \leq c \qquad -ax_{i} + b'y_{k} \leq d \qquad x_{i} \text{ is an uncommon symbol}$$

$$by_{j} + b'y_{k} \leq c + d$$

$$\underline{ax + ay \leq ac}$$

$$x + y \leq c$$

Applying these rules as necessary to eliminate uncommon symbols might take at most $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ steps. Additionally, this algorithm terminates since the algorithm remove one uncommon symbol at a time, and, assuming there is a finite number of uncommon symbols, then the algorithm terminates.

4 Implementation

Currently we have implemented the interpolant algorithms in Haskell. We have tested the Haskell implementation with the examples provided in Kapur's paper.

```
→ haskell ./main
Example from [20]

[x11 = y11],[(y1 = z1 & y1 = z2) -> s1 = s2,(y1 = z2 & y1 = z1) -> s2 = s1,(y1 = z2 & y1 = z1) -> f(s1,s1) = t,(y2 = z1 & y1 = z1) -> f(s1,s1) = t,(y2 = z1 & y1 = z1) -> f(s1,s1) = t,(y2 = z1 & y1 = z2) -> s1 = s2,(y2 = z2 & y1 = z1) -> f(s1,s2) = t,(y2 = z2 & y1 = z1) -> f(s1,s2) = t,(y2 = z2 & y1 = z1) -> s2 = s1,(y2 = z2 & y1 = z1) -> s2 = s1,(y2 = z2 & y2 = z1 & y1 = y2) -> s1 = s2,(y2 = z2 & y2 = z1) -> s2 = s1,(y2 = z2 & y2 = z1 & y1 = y2) -> s1 = s2,(y2 = z2 & y2 = z1 & y2 = z1) -> s2 = s1,(z1 = z2 -> s1 = s2])

Computation time: 0.000 sec

Example 4.3

([f(z1) = z3,f(z2) = z4,f(z5) = z7,f(z6) = z8],[])

Computation time: 0.000 sec

Example Example in Figure 4

([f(z1) = z3,f(z2) = z4],[])

Computation time: 0.000 sec

Example in Figure 4

([f(z1) = z3,f(z2) = z4],[])

Computation time: 0.000 sec

→ haskell
```

Figure 3: Timming of Haskell program to compute EUF interpolants

The implementation of the implicational closure and fast congruence closure are efficient implementations in C++. We have tested the software with several automated examples with around 10000 terms. The testing consisted in checking if the congruence closure was computed as expected, i.e. we checked every possible pair of terms and check if they are in the congruence relation iff their successors are already in the congruence relation.

To measure performance we automated several examples. The results of running time of the algorithm are shown below:

5 Conclusion

In this technical report we have discussed several algorithms and their intricate connections. The exhaustive testing and final performance results indicate the correctness of the implementation. For the future work, we plan to code the interpolation algorithms efficiently using C++ and the current fast congruence closure algorithm. The latter is already defined as a package by itself. Also, it is still pending to compare the performing results of the current algorithms with the

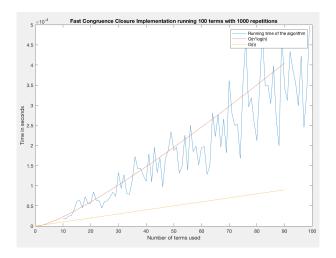


Figure 4: Comparison of running time of the fast congruence closure implementation with $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ and $\mathcal{O}(n)$ functions executing 100 terms and doing 1000 repetitions.

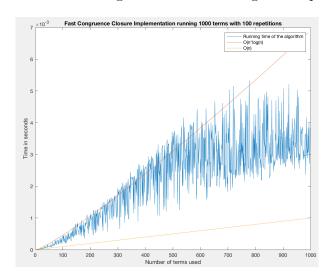


Figure 5: Comparison of running time of the fast congruence closure implementation with $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ and $\mathcal{O}(n)$ functions executing 1000 terms and doing 100 repetitions.

MathSAT 5 package. I predict that the new interpolantion algorithms should outperform the ones used in the MathSAT 5 software.

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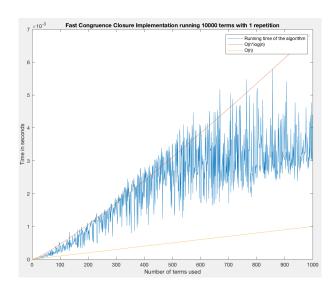


Figure 6: Comparison of running time of the fast congruence closure implementation with $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ and $\mathcal{O}(n)$ functions executing 10000 terms and doing 1 repetitions.

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