

Z3-Noodler 1.3: Shepherding Decision Procedures for Strings with Model Generation

or How to Select Appropriate Decision Procedures
and Generate Models in Z3-Noodler

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SMT String constraint solving

- Checking **satisfiability** of formulae with **string variables** and operations

$$\underbrace{x = yz \wedge y \neq u \wedge x \in (ab)^* a^+ (b|c)}_{(dis)equations} \wedge \overbrace{x \in (ab)^* a^+ (b|c)}^{\text{regular constraints}} \wedge \overbrace{|x| = 2|u| + 1}^{\text{length constraints}} \wedge \underbrace{\text{contains}(u, \text{replace}(z, b, c)) \wedge \dots}_{\text{more complex operations}}$$

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- **Motivation:** **large and complex real-world programs** need security guarantees

- **analysis** of string manipulating programs (**vulnerabilities** of web applications)

let x = y.substring(1, y.length - 1);	$x_0 = \text{substr}(y, 1, y - 1) \wedge$
let z = y.concat(x);	$z_0 = y \cdot x_0 \wedge$
assert (x == z);	$x_0 \neq z_0$

- Amazon web services: cloud **access control policies**

[Rungta-CAV'22]

action: deactivate,	$A = \text{"deactivate"} \wedge$
resource: (a1, a2),	$(R = \text{"a1"} \vee R = \text{"a2"}) \wedge$
condition: {StringLike, s3:prefix, home*}	$\text{prefix} \in \text{home}^*$

- **verification** of cockpit systems (Boeing), etc.

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let x = y.substring(1, y.length - 1);    x0 = substr(y, 1, |y| - 1) ∧
let z = y.concat(x);                     z0 = y · x0 ∧
assert(x === z);                          x0 ≠ z0
  
```

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[Rungta-CAV'22]

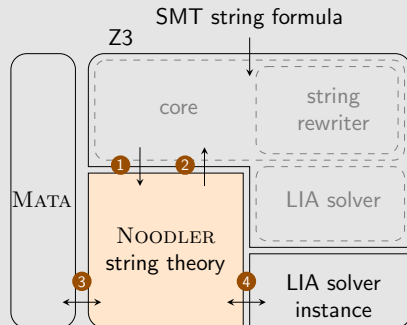
```

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```

- **verification** of cockpit systems (Boeing), etc.
 - \rightsquigarrow **efficient and expressive** SMT string solvers are **needed**
 - improving **efficiency**, but also **expressiveness** (on the **edge of decidability**)

Z3-Noodler: SMT string solver

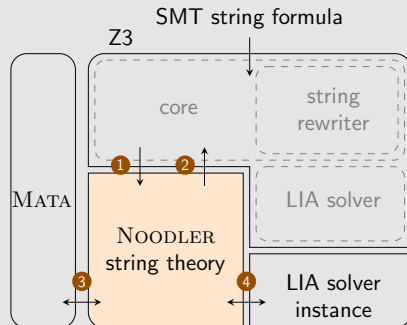
- Based on SMT solver **Z3**
 - formula **parsed** by Z3 and handled by **DPPL(*T*)**-based framework
 - Z3-Noodler replaces Z3's **string theory solver**
 - modified **string rewriter** (simplifications)
 - uses **Z3's linear arithmetic** (LIA) theory solver



¹Chocholatý, D. et al. Mata: A Fast and Simple Finite Automata Library. In: TACAS'24

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 - uses **Z3's linear arithmetic** (LIA) theory solver
- Uses **Nondeterministic finite automata** (NFAs)
 - Uses **Mata**¹ automata library for efficient handling of finite automata and operations
 - **Explicit alphabets** sufficient



The fastest string solver: winner of SMT-COMP'24 string division

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Our previous work

$$\underbrace{x = yz \wedge y \neq u}_{(dis)equations} \wedge \underbrace{x \in (ab)^* a^+ (b|c)}_{regular\ constraints} \wedge \underbrace{|x| = 2|u| + 1}_{length\ constraints} \wedge \underbrace{\text{contains}(u, \text{replace}(z, b, c)) \wedge \dots}_{more\ complex\ operations}$$

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FM'23

- **tight integration** of equations with regular constraints
- works with **languages of variables** encoded as NFAs
- **refining** the languages of variables
- algorithm **stabilization** (**noodlification**)

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OOPSLA'23

- combines FM'23 with **Align&Split**
- **linear-integer arithmetic** (LIA) encoding
- complete for **chain-free** fragment
- complex operations **reduced to simpler** ones (regular, length constraints, and equations)

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TACAS'24: tool paper for Z3-Noodler v1.0

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SAT'24

- Extends OOPSLA'23 procedure with handling **string-integer conversions**
 - **to_int/from_int** - string to/from integer:

$$\text{to_int}('0324') = 324 \quad \text{to_int}('34a') = -1 \quad \text{from_int}(134) = '134'$$
 - **to_code/from_code** - char to/from (Unicode) code point:

$$\text{to_code}('0') = 48 \quad \text{from_code}(97) = 'a' \quad \text{to_code}('ab') = -1$$
- encoding conversions into **LIA formulae**
 - $\mathcal{L} \wedge \varphi_{\text{len}} \wedge \varphi_{\text{conv}}$ is **satisfiable**, or find a **different** solution

This work

- Earlier work: General fast decision procedure **stabilization**
- **Improve further by combining with specialized decision procedures** for specific (theory) fragments or constraints

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- An **interface for selecting appropriate** decision procedures
 - **pure regular constraints** (regexes as NFAs)
 - **quadratic equations** (**Nielsen transformation**)
 - **lengths** for **block acyclic constraints**

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- An **interface for selecting appropriate** decision procedures
 - **pure regular constraints** (regexes as NFAs)
 - **quadratic equations** (**Nielsen transformation**)
 - **lengths** for **block acyclic constraints**
- **Model generation** for all decision procedures
 - for stabilization
 - for the specialized decision procedures

Pure regular constraints: General regular constraints

$$\bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq n} x \in \mathcal{S}_i \wedge \bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq m} x \notin \mathcal{R}_i \quad P = \bigcap_{1 \leq i \leq n} \text{aut}(\mathcal{S}_i) \quad U = \bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq m} \text{aut}(\mathcal{R}_i)$$

- **Problem: Expensive complement computation** (determinization) for negations

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- **Problem:** **Expensive complement computation** (determinization) for negations
- **Solution:** **Postpone the construction of the complement**, **construct lazily**
- Solved by automata-/**Regex-based** reasoning
- **Expensive emptiness check:** the difference of P and U ($P \cap U^c = \emptyset$)
- **Instead:** Simple **inclusion checking:** $L(P) \subseteq L(U)$ does *not* hold
 - **antichain-based algorithms:** perform well on real-world problems

Pure regular constraints: Single regular constraint

- Analyze **regexes** ($x \in \mathcal{R}, x \notin \mathcal{R}$) to **extract properties as bool flags**
- **Propagate flags** (e, u, ℓ) through operations:
 - $e \in \mathbb{B}_3$: the regex includes the empty word
 - $u \in \mathbb{B}_3$: the regex is universal
 - $\ell \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\text{undef}\}$: the minimum length of a word recognized by the regex

$$R_1 : (e_1, u_1, \ell_1) \quad R_2 : (e_2, u_2, \ell_2) \quad \text{re} . ++(R_1, R_2)$$

$$(e_1 \wedge e_2, u, \ell_1 + \ell_2), \ell_1 + \ell_2 > 0 \rightsquigarrow u = \perp, \text{otherwise } u = \text{undef}$$

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- Completely **avoid the NFA construction by reasoning about the flags**
- undef: only when flags are insufficient \rightsquigarrow construct NFAs

Pure regular constraints: Model generation

- **General regular constraints:**

- Simple regexes: **direct generation from regexes**
- Automata construction: **Depth-First-Search** through NFAs in found solutions
Lazy construction of $P \cap U^c$ (exit on first accepted word)

Pure regular constraints: Model generation

■ General regular constraints:

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Lazy construction of $P \cap U^c$ (exit on first accepted word)

■ Single regular constraint:

- Positive regex and no complex operations (intersection, complement, or difference):
direct generation from the regex
- Otherwise: Automata construction

Quadratic equations: Nielsen transformation

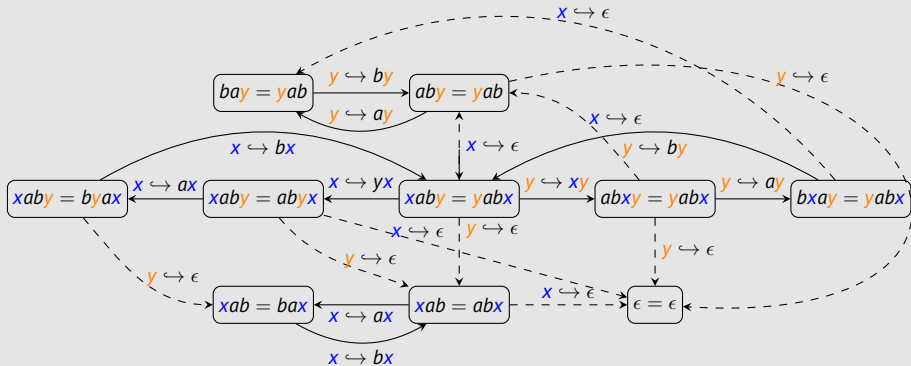
- Quadratic: each variable has at most two occurrences in a conjunction of equations
- Create a **Nielsen graph** (finite for a quadratic system of equations)
 - Node: set of equations, Nielsen transformation metarules:

$$(x \hookrightarrow \alpha x) : \frac{\mathcal{E}' \uplus \{xu = \alpha v\}}{\text{trim}(\mathcal{E}[x/\alpha x])} \mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}' \uplus \{xu = \alpha v\} \quad (x \hookrightarrow \epsilon) : \frac{\mathcal{E}' \uplus \{xu = v\}}{\text{trim}(\mathcal{E}[x/\epsilon])} \mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}' \uplus \{xu = v\}$$

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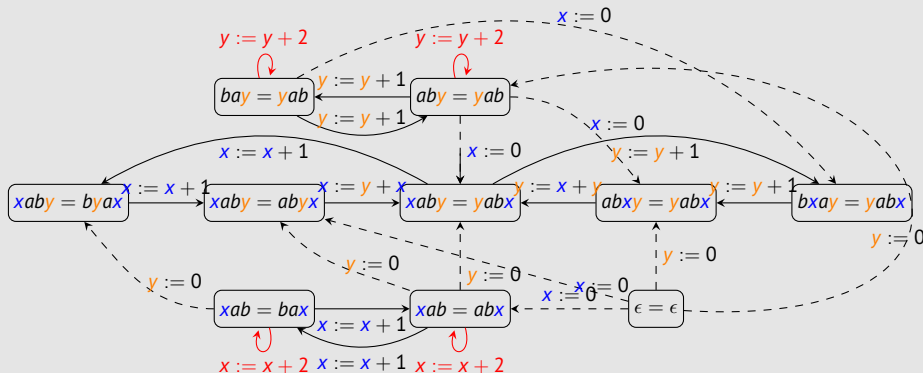
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Quadratic equations: Counter abstraction system

- Derived from the Nielsen graph
 - heuristic for **handling lengths in Nielsen transformation**
- Infinitely many runs \rightsquigarrow heuristic: selecting runs with self-loops
- **Self-loop saturation**

[LIN-LMCS'21]

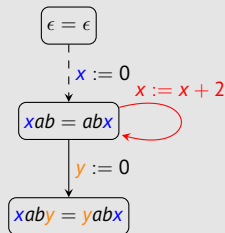


Quadratic equations: Derivation of a LIA formula

$$xaby = yabx \wedge \text{len}(x) \geq 50$$

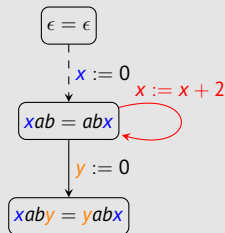
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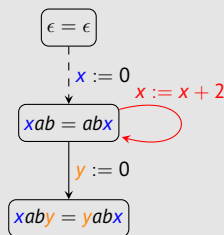


- NFA with counter updates on edges
- **under-approximation**: selected runs into LIA formulae
- Still often enough for **unsat**
- Fresh counter variables for each step

$$\begin{aligned}
 \varphi(x, y) \Leftrightarrow & x_0 = 0 \wedge y_0 = 0 \wedge \\
 & x_1 = 0 \wedge y_1 = y_0 \wedge \\
 & x_2 = x_1 + 2k \wedge y_2 = y_1 \wedge \\
 & y_3 = 0 \wedge x_3 = x_2 \wedge \\
 & x = x_3 \wedge y = y_3
 \end{aligned}$$

Quadratic equations: Derivation of a LIA formula

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Is $\varphi(\text{len}(x), \text{len}(y)) \wedge \text{len}(x) \geq 50$ satisfiable?

Quadratic equations: Model generation

- **From counter abstraction system from runs**
- Remember Nielsen rules for the counter updates, and number of times each self-loop was taken
- Model constructed by **following a run with applied rules**

Length-based decision procedure

$$x = \text{ab}y\text{c} \wedge x = zw \wedge x = u\text{ddc} \wedge y = v\text{ad} \wedge y = \text{a}s$$

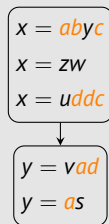
- Large systems (many equations, unrestricted variables and literals)
- **Symbolically encode all possible alignments of literals (their positions) into LIA formulae**
- Solving string formula converted into solving LIA formula

Length-based decision procedure

$$x = \text{abyc} \wedge x = zw \wedge x = \text{uddc} \wedge y = \text{vad} \wedge y = \text{as}$$

- Large systems (many equations, unrestricted variables and literals)
- **Symbolically encode all possible alignments of literals (their positions) into LIA formulae**
- Solving string formula converted into solving LIA formula
- *Equational blocks of a variable*
- *Block string constraint*: a conjunction of equational blocks \rightsquigarrow *block graph*
- **Block-acyclic string constraint**: acyclic block graph
- Block-acyclic string constraints **extended with length constraints**

$$\bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq n} x = R_i$$

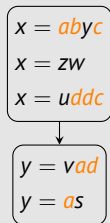


Length-based decision procedure: Alignments to LIA formula

$$x = \textcolor{brown}{a}b\textcolor{brown}{y}c \wedge x = zw \wedge x = u\textcolor{brown}{d}d\textcolor{brown}{c} \wedge y = v\textcolor{brown}{a}d \wedge y = \textcolor{brown}{a}s$$

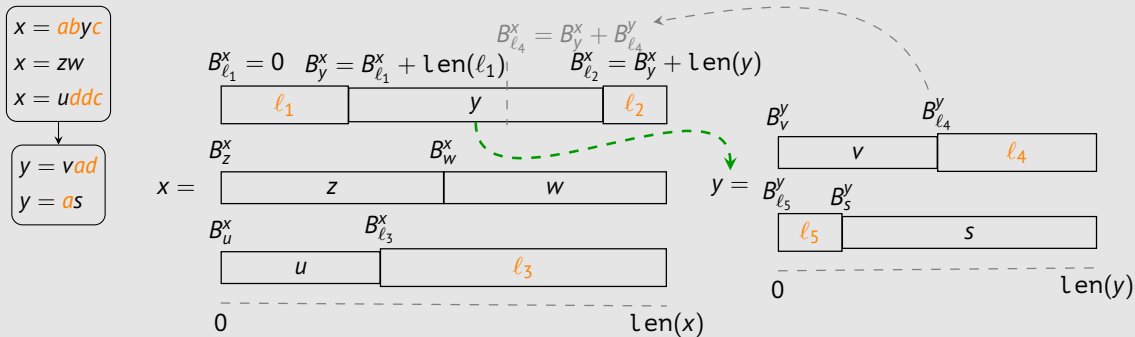
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Length-based decision procedure: Alignments to LIA formula

$$x = \text{abyc} \wedge x = zw \wedge x = \text{uddc} \wedge y = \text{vad} \wedge y = \text{as}$$



Length-based decision procedure: Blocks with cycles

- Extension to **blocks with cycles using under-approximation**
- Shared non-block variables between two blocks with a cycle

$$x = ay\mathbf{z} \wedge x = ab \wedge y = b\mathbf{z}$$

Length-based decision procedure: Model generation

- Model for each variable derived from the **positions of the literals**
- **Iteratively filling in an empty skeleton** for each variable with the corresponding string literals

Stabilization: Model generation

- **Recursive construction** of models for variables
- **Language assignments** for variables
- **Restrict** to found lengths

Experimental evaluation

- **SMT-LIB benchmarks**, split into 3 categories:
 - **Regex** (mainly regular and length constraints): **AutomatArk**, **Denghang**, **Redos**, **StringFuzz**, **Sygus-qgen**
 - **Equations** (mostly word equations and length constraints with some small number of more complex constraints): **Kaluza**, **Kepler**, **Norn**, **Omark**, **Slent**, **Slog**, **Webapp**, **Woorpje**
 - **Predicates-small** (complex predicates): **FullStrInt**, **LeetCode**, **PyEx**, **StrSmallRw**, **Transducer+**
- Timeout: 120 s, memory limit: 8 GiB
- **Significantly faster** than other solvers

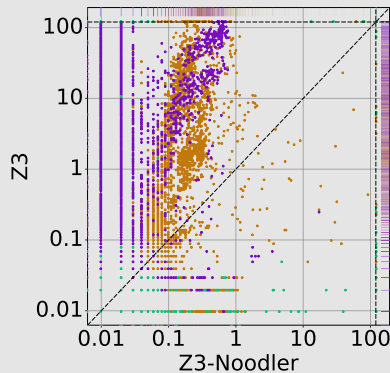
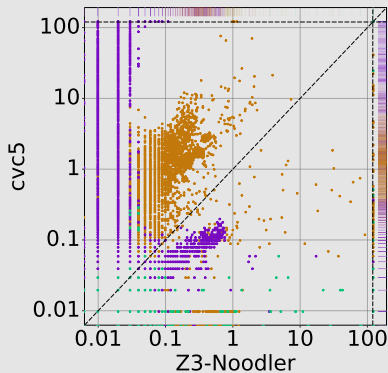
Experimental evaluation: Procedures comparison

	number of calls	Regex proc.		Nielsen transf.		Length-based		Stabilization-based	
		called	solved	called	solved	called	solved	called	solved
SyguS-qgen	747	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Denghang	999	0.10%	0.10%	0%	0%	96.10%	96.10%	3.80%	3.80%
AutomatArk	20,062	99.97%	99.97%	0%	0%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%
StringFuzz	9,941	46.45%	46.45%	0%	0%	27.98%	27.96%	25.58%	25.58%
Redos	2,952	70.02%	70.02%	0%	0%	11.21%	11.21%	18.77%	18.77%
Full Regex	34,701	79.21%	79.21%	0%	0%	11.75%	11.74%	9.04%	9.04%
LeetCode	874	1.37%	1.37%	0%	0%	59.27%	16.70%	81.92%	81.92%
StrSmallRw	6,327	0%	0%	0%	0%	4.85%	3.75%	96.25%	96.25%
PyEx	26,045	0.10%	0.10%	0%	0%	0.08%	0.08%	99.82%	99.82%
FullStrInt	9,003	0.04%	0.04%	0%	0%	0.26%	0.26%	99.70%	99.70%
Transducer+	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Full Predicates-small	42,249	0.10%	0.10%	0%	0%	2.06%	1.01%	98.89%	98.89%
Norn	918	11.76%	11.76%	0%	0%	6.86%	6.86%	81.37%	81.37%
Slog	1,565	25.37%	25.37%	0%	0%	0.13%	0.13%	74.50%	74.50%
Slent	1,489	0.40%	0.40%	0%	0%	35.19%	30.09%	69.51%	69.51%
Omark	9	0%	0%	11.11%	11.11%	11.11%	0%	88.89%	88.89%
Kepler	579	0%	0%	99.83%	99.83%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Woorpje	478	0.84%	0.84%	43.10%	42.47%	30.96%	27.20%	20.50%	20.50%
Webapp	381	0.52%	0.52%	0%	0%	2.36%	0.26%	99.21%	99.21%
Kaluza	11,222	35.31%	35.31%	0%	0%	63.45%	61.78%	2.91%	2.91%
Full Equations	16,641	26.92%	26.92%	4.72%	4.70%	47.27%	45.53%	22.59%	22.59%
All	93,591	34.20%	34.20%	0.84%	0.84%	13.69%	12.91%	52.01%	52.01%

Experimental evaluation: Generating models

	Regex (32,242)		Equations (25,727)		Predicates-small (45,436)		All (103,405)	
	solved	time	solved	time	solved	time	solved	time
Z3-Noodler	32,232	3,688	25,301	1,147	45,035	6,353	102,568	11,118
Z3-Noodler ^M	32,228	4,010	25,299	1,456	45,035	7,321	102,562	12,787
cvc5	29,290	59,705	25,214	2,529	45,337	11,627	99,841	73,861
cvc5 ^M	29,287	59,892	25,214	2,756	45,337	12,220	99,838	74,868
Z3	29,075	51,379	24,569	3,240	44,101	74,094	97,745	128,712
Z3 ^M	29,064	51,830	24,571	4,013	44,096	74,708	97,731	130,551

Experimental evaluation: Comparison with other solvers



Times are in seconds, axes are logarithmic, timeouts on side dashed lines (120 s)

● **Regex**, ● **Equations**, and ● **Predicates-small**.

Conclusion

- **Combination of decision procedures**
- **Specialized decision procedures**
(regular and length constraints, quadratic equations)
- **Model generation**
- **Z3-Noodler:**
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- **Future work:**
 - using **transducers** for **replace_all** operations (*nearly done*)
 - better handling of **negated contains**
 - application of Z3-Noodler on the **analysis of the security of web applications**



Noodlification (FM'23) on an example

$$xyx = zu \wedge ww = xa \wedge u \in (baba)^*a \wedge z \in a(ba)^* \wedge x \in \Sigma^* \wedge y \in \Sigma^* \wedge w \in \Sigma^*$$

■ $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$

Noodlification (FM'23) on an example

$$xyx = zu \wedge ww = xa \wedge u \in (baba)^*a \wedge z \in a(ba)^* \wedge x \in \Sigma^* \wedge y \in \Sigma^* \wedge w \in \Sigma^*$$

- $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$
- Regular constraints are **collected** in a **language assignment** represented by **automata**

$$Lang = \{u \mapsto (baba)^*a, z \mapsto a(ba)^*, x \mapsto \Sigma^*, y \mapsto \Sigma^*, w \mapsto \Sigma^*\}$$

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$$Lang = \{u \mapsto (baba)^*a, z \mapsto a(ba)^*, x \mapsto \Sigma^*, y \mapsto \Sigma^*, w \mapsto \Sigma^*\}$$

- Use equations to **refine** *Lang*, starting with **xyx = zu**
- For any solution (assignment ν) string $s = \nu(x) \cdot \nu(y) \cdot \nu(x) = \nu(z) \cdot \nu(u)$ satisfies:

$$s \in \underbrace{\Sigma^*}_x \underbrace{\Sigma^*}_y \underbrace{\Sigma^*}_x = \underbrace{a(ba)^*}_z \underbrace{(baba)^*a}_u$$

- Use right side to **refine** languages of variables x, y on the left side by **noodlification**

Noodlification (FM'23) on an example

$xyx = zu$ $ww = xa$	$u \mapsto (baba)^*a$ $z \mapsto a(ba)^*$ $x \mapsto \Sigma^*$ $y \mapsto \Sigma^*$ $w \mapsto \Sigma^*$
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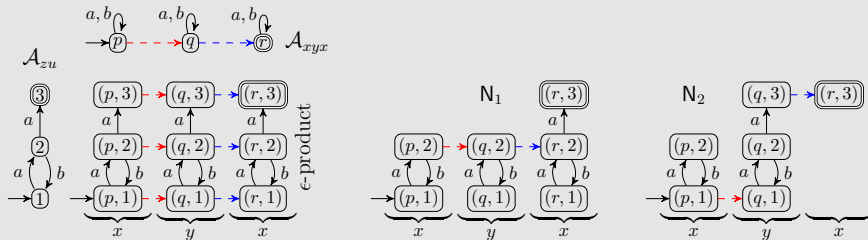
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- Use right side to **refine** languages of variables x, y on the left side by **noodlification**
- Leads to two noodles:

$$N_1 : \underbrace{\Sigma^*}_x \underbrace{\Sigma^*}_y \underbrace{\Sigma^*}_x \cap \underbrace{a(ba)^*}_z \underbrace{(baba)^*a}_u \quad N_2 : \underbrace{\Sigma^*}_x \underbrace{\Sigma^*}_y \underbrace{\Sigma^*}_x \cap \underbrace{a(ba)^*}_z \underbrace{(baba)^*a}_u$$



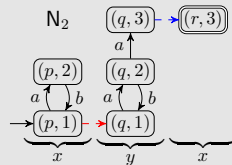
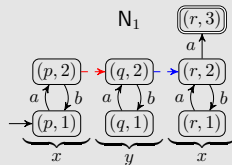
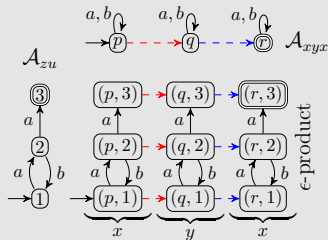
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$$N_2 : \overbrace{\Sigma^*}^x \overbrace{\Sigma^*}^y \overbrace{\Sigma^*}^x = \overbrace{a(ba)^*}^z \overbrace{(baba)^*a}^u$$



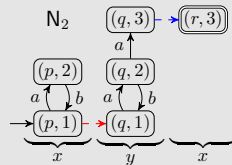
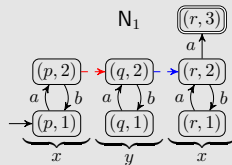
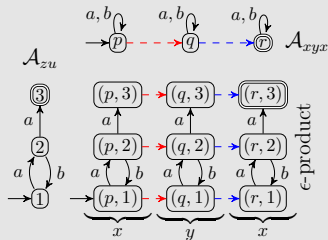
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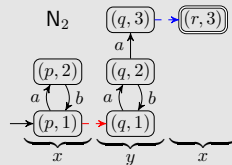
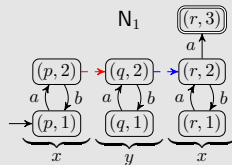
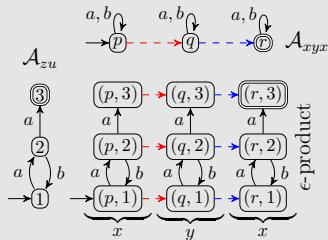
Noodlification (FM'23) on an example

$$xyx = zu \quad ww = xa \quad \begin{array}{l} u \mapsto (baba)^*a \quad z \mapsto a(ba)^* \quad x \mapsto a \quad y \mapsto (ba)^* \quad w \mapsto \Sigma^* \end{array}$$

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Noodlification (FM'23) on an example

$$xyx = zu \quad \mathbf{ww = xa} \quad \left| \quad u \mapsto (baba)^*a \quad z \mapsto a(ba)^* \quad x \mapsto a \quad y \mapsto (ba)^* \quad w \mapsto \Sigma^*\right.$$

- Refine further with $\mathbf{ww = xa}$:

$$\overbrace{\Sigma^*}^w \overbrace{\Sigma^*}^w = \overbrace{a}^x a.$$

Noodlification (FM'23) on an example

$$xyx = zu \quad \mathbf{ww} = \mathbf{xa} \quad \left| \quad u \mapsto (baba)^*a \quad z \mapsto a(ba)^* \quad x \mapsto a \quad y \mapsto (ba)^* \quad w \mapsto \mathbf{a} \right.$$

- Refine further with $\mathbf{ww} = \mathbf{xa}$:

$$\underbrace{\quad \quad}_w \underbrace{\quad \quad}_w = \underbrace{\quad \quad}_x \quad \quad \quad \underbrace{\quad \quad}_a \quad \quad \quad \underbrace{\quad \quad}_a.$$

Noodlification (FM'23) on an example

$xyx = zu \quad ww = xa$	$u \mapsto (baba)^*a \quad z \mapsto a(ba)^* \quad x \mapsto a \quad y \mapsto (ba)^* \quad w \mapsto a$
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- Refine further with **$ww = xa$** :

$$\underbrace{\quad}_a^w \underbrace{\quad}_a^w = \underbrace{\quad}_a^x a.$$

- Languages in equations now **match**:

$$\underbrace{\quad}_a^x \underbrace{\quad}_{(ba)^*}^y \underbrace{\quad}_a^x = \underbrace{\quad}_{a(ba)^*}^z \underbrace{\quad}_{(baba)^*a}^u \quad \text{and} \quad \underbrace{\quad}_a^w \underbrace{\quad}_a^w = \underbrace{\quad}_a^x a.$$

Noodlification (FM'23) on an example

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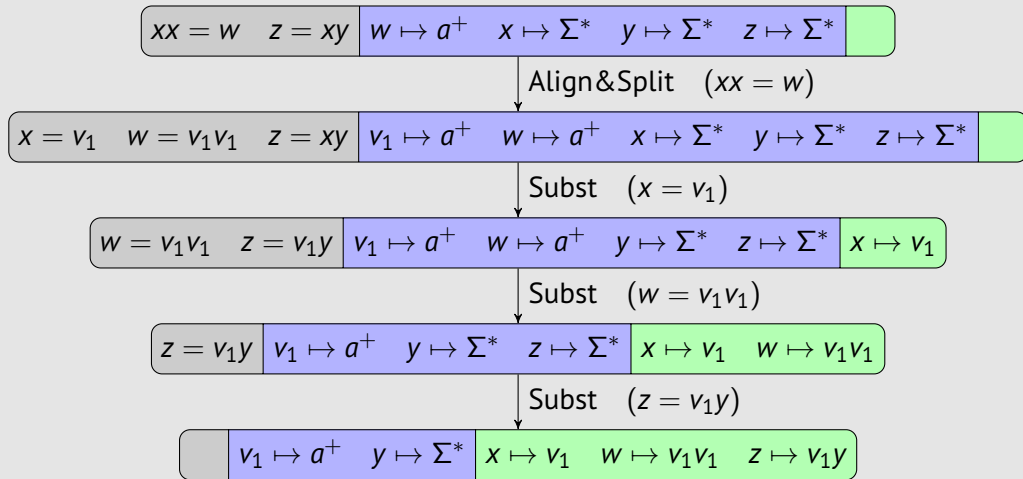
- Lang* is a **stable solution** (we prove this is enough to decide it is SAT)

OOPSLA'23

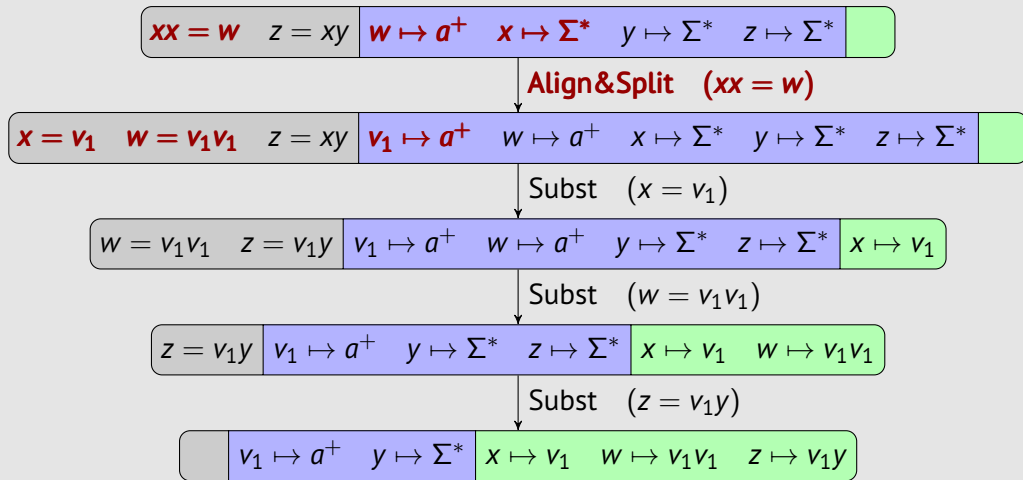
$$\underbrace{x = yz \wedge y \neq u}_{\text{(dis)equations}} \wedge \underbrace{x \in (ab)^* a^+ (b|c)}_{\text{regular constraints}} \wedge \underbrace{|x| = 2|u| + 1}_{\text{length constraints}} \wedge \underbrace{\text{contains}(u, \text{replace}(z, b, c)) \wedge \dots}_{\text{(some) more complex operations}}$$

- FM'23 can handle **equations** and **regular constraints** (at least **chain-free fragment**)
- How to handle more **complex operations** and **disequations**?
 - ↪ reduced (at least partially) to simpler constraints
- How to handle **lengths**?
 - create linear-integer arithmetic (LIA) formula **encoding possible lengths of words** in each language in *Lang*
 - stable solution *Lang* does not keep **dependencies** between lengths of vars
 - ↪ we use noodlification combined with **Align&Split** algorithm [Abdulla-CAV'14]

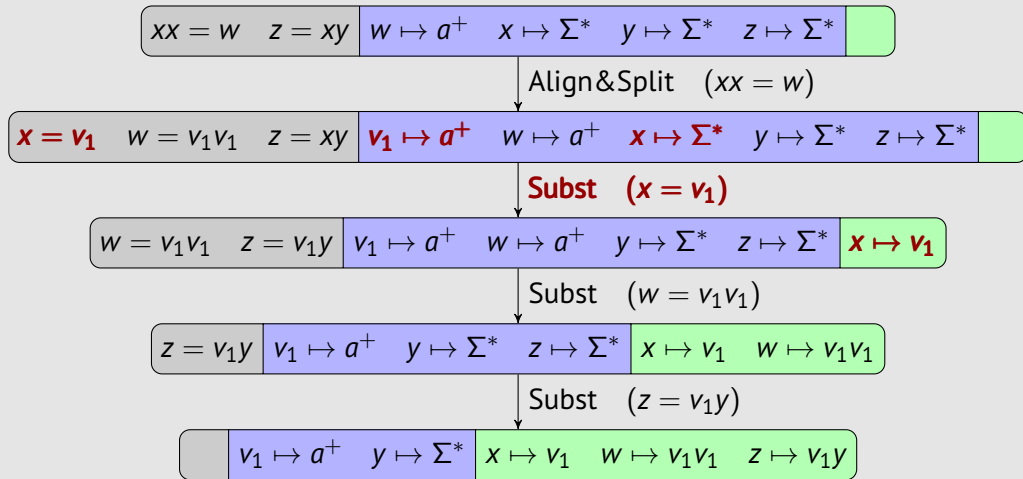
OOPSLA'23 on example: $xx = w \wedge z = xy \wedge w \in a^+ \wedge |z| = 2|w| - |x|$



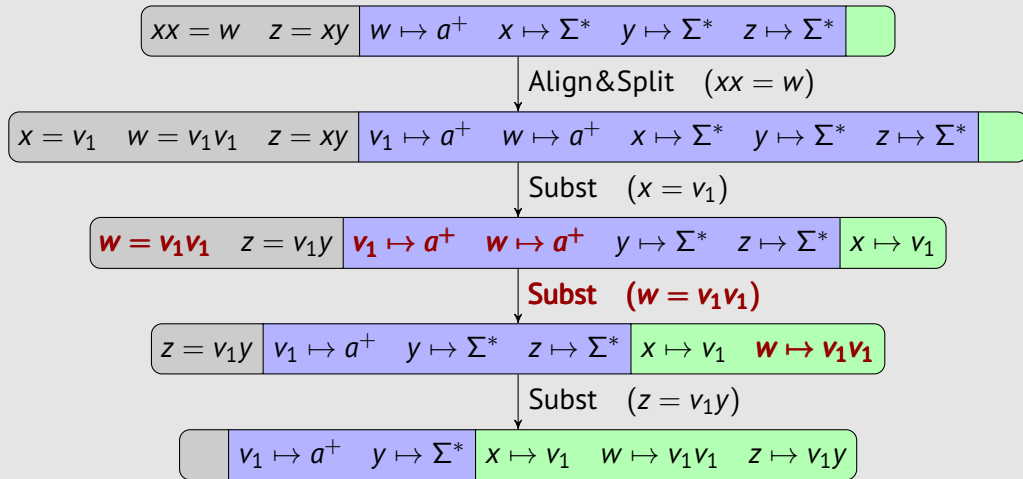
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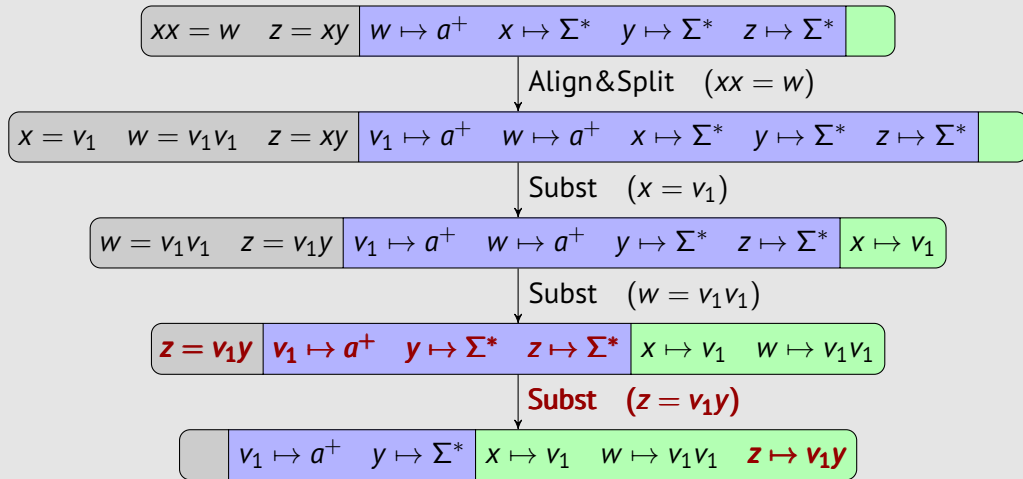
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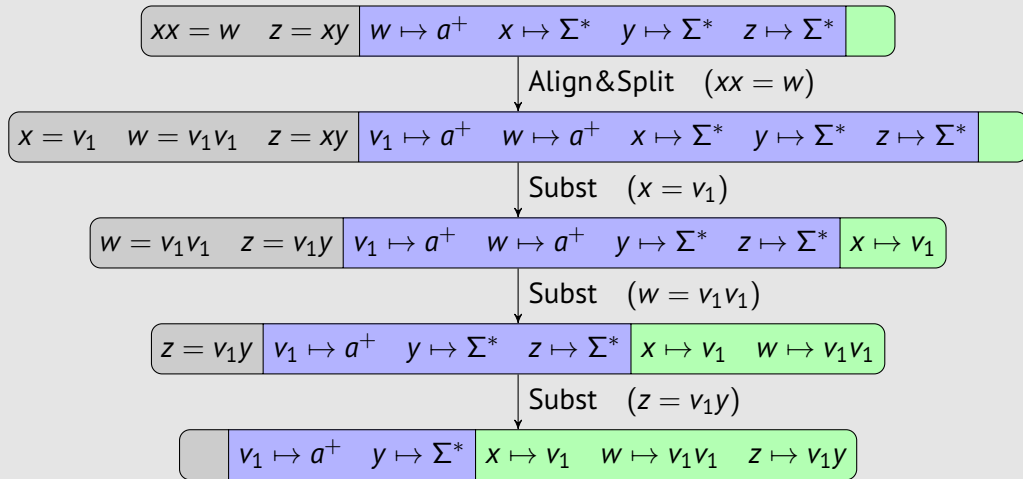
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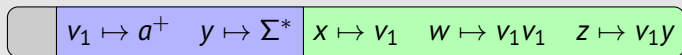
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	$v_1 \mapsto a^+ \quad y \mapsto \Sigma^*$	$x \mapsto v_1 \quad w \mapsto v_1 v_1 \quad z \mapsto v_1 y$
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■ stable solution $(Lang, \sigma)$:

- language assignment $Lang: v_1 \mapsto a^+, y \mapsto \Sigma^*$
- substitution map $\sigma: x \mapsto v_1, w \mapsto v_1 v_1, z \mapsto v_1 y$

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■ **LIA formula** encoding **possible lengths** of variables:

$$\varphi_{\text{len}} \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} \quad \wedge \quad \wedge \quad \wedge \quad \wedge$$

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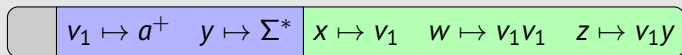
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■ **LIA formula** encoding **possible lengths** of variables:

$$\varphi_{\text{len}} \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\Leftrightarrow} |v_1| \geq 1 \wedge |y| \geq 0 \wedge |x| = |v_1| \wedge |w| = |v_1| + |v_1| \wedge$$

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$$\varphi_{\text{len}} \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\Leftrightarrow} |v_1| \geq 1 \wedge |y| \geq 0 \wedge |x| = |v_1| \wedge |w| = |v_1| + |v_1| \wedge |z| = |v_1| + |y|$$

■ ask LIA solver if $|z| = 2|w| - |x| \wedge \varphi_{\text{len}}$ is satisfiable

■ it is, we have model $|v_1| = |x| = 1, |w| = |y| = 2, |z| = 3$

■ we can choose any word from *Lang*(v_1) and *Lang*(y) with correct lengths:

$$v_1 = a \text{ and } y = bc$$

■ models for x, w , and z are computed using the substitution map σ :

$$x = v_1 = a, w = v_1 v_1 = aa, \text{ and } z = v_1 y = abc$$

How to combine OOPSLA'23 with conversions?

- What we **have**:
 - stable **solution** $(Lang, \sigma)$
 - the **LIA part** of the initial formula \mathcal{L}
 - formula φ_{len} **encoding** possible **lengths** of variables
 - set of **conversion constraints** $\mathcal{C} = \{k = \text{to_int}(x), y = \text{from_code}(l), \dots\}$
- How about **encoding** conversions into **LIA formula** too?
 - each conversion constraint $c \in \mathcal{C}$ encoded into **LIA formula** φ_c
 - $\varphi_{conv} \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} \bigwedge_{c \in \mathcal{C}} \varphi_c$
 - if $\mathcal{L} \wedge \varphi_{len} \wedge \varphi_{conv}$ is **satisfiable**, we have a **solution**
 - otherwise find **different** stable solution (if possible)

Handling $k = \text{to_int}(x)$

- Semantics:
 - for a valid x (it contains only digits), k is the number represented by x
 - for an invalid x (it contains some non-digit), $k = -1$
- For stable solution $(Lang, \sigma)$ we have two distinct cases:
 - x is mapped to some language L_x in language assignment $Lang$
 - x is substituted by $x_1 \cdots x_n$ in substitution map σ

Handling $k = \text{to_int}(x)$ when x is in the language assignment

- Assume that $x \mapsto L_x \in \text{Lang}$
- LIA formula $\varphi_{k=\text{to_int}(x)}$ should encode that k is the result of applying `to_int` on some word from L_x
- Generally possible only with **non-linear** arithmetic

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$$\varphi_{k=\text{to_int}(x)} \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} \bigvee_{w \in L_x} (\text{to_int}(x) = \text{to_int}(w))$$

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 1. the **correspondence** between the length of x and the value of `to_int`(x)

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 1. the **correspondence** between the length of x and the value of `to_int`(x)
 - \rightsquigarrow **relate** words with the corresponding length
 2. can easily **blow-up**

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- Problems:
 1. the **correspondence** between the length of x and the value of `to_int`(x)
 - \rightsquigarrow **relate** words with the corresponding length
 2. can easily **blow-up**
 - \rightsquigarrow encode **intervals** of words instead of single words

Intervals on an example

- Let $L_x = [0-7] \cup [2-5][0-9] \cup [3-6][0-9][0-9]$
- We create the following formula:

$$\varphi_{k=\text{to_int}(x)} \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff}$$

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- Easily implementable on automata level
- Handling invalid cases makes it a bit more complicated

Handling $k = \text{to_int}(x)$ when x is in the substitution map

- Assume that $x \mapsto x_1 \cdots x_n \in \sigma$
- In stable solution, each x_i is mapped to some L_{x_i} in the language assignment $Lang$
- We can create LIA formulas encoding each $\text{to_int}(x_i)$ using the interval method
- For each (l_1, \dots, l_n) with l_i some possible length of x_i we create

$$\text{to_int}(x) = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left(\text{to_int}(x_i) \cdot 10^{\ell_{i+1} + \dots + \ell_n} \right) \wedge \bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq n} (|x_i| = \ell_i)$$

- $\varphi_{k=\text{to_int}(x)}$ is defined as a disjunction of these equations
- Again, invalid cases make it more complicated

Handling $k = \text{to_code}(x)$

- Semantics:
 - for a valid x (a char), k is the code points of x
 - for an invalid x (not a char), $k = -1$

- **Valid** part is always **finite**
 - **no problem** with **infinite** languages
 - we can iterate over all **characters**:

$$\varphi_{k=\text{to_code}(x)} \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\Leftrightarrow} \bigvee_{a \in L_x \cap \Sigma} \text{to_code}(x) = \text{to_code}(a) \wedge |x| = 1$$

- Still problem with a **blow-up** (Σ is large)
 - set Σ_e of explicitly **used** symbols in formula is usually **small**
 - introduce a **special symbol** δ representing all **unused symbols**
 - work with a **much smaller** alphabet $\Sigma = \Sigma_e \cup \{\delta\}$
 - **special handling** of δ
- Needs to also encode the **correspondence** between $\text{to_code}(x)$ and $\text{to_int}(x)$

Handling `from_int/from_code`

- Very **similar** to `to_int/from_code`
- Instead of constraining the result, we want to constrain the argument
- We can use nearly the **same encoding**
- Slight **difference** in handling **invalid** cases

Handling word disequations trough to_code

- In OOPSLA'23 we showed how to handle **arbitrary disequation** $s \neq t$:

$$\varphi_{s \neq t} \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\Leftrightarrow} |s| \neq |t| \vee \left(s = x_1 a_1 y_1 \wedge t = x_2 a_2 y_2 \wedge |x_1| = |x_2| \wedge a_1 \in \Sigma \wedge a_2 \in \Sigma \wedge \overbrace{a_1 \neq a_2}^{\text{dist}(a_1, a_2)} \right)$$

- Convoluted LIA formula $\text{dist}(a_1, a_2)$ computed after getting stable solution
- Important: this encoding has **no impact** on chain-free fragment
- Problem: encoding of $\text{dist}(a_1, a_2)$ is **incompatible** with conversions
- Solution:

$$\text{dist}(a_1, a_2) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\Leftrightarrow} \text{to_code}(a_1) \neq \text{to_code}(a_2)$$

- Still **no impact** on chain-free fragment