

LemmaCalc:

Quick Theory Exploration for Algebraic Data Types via Program Transformations



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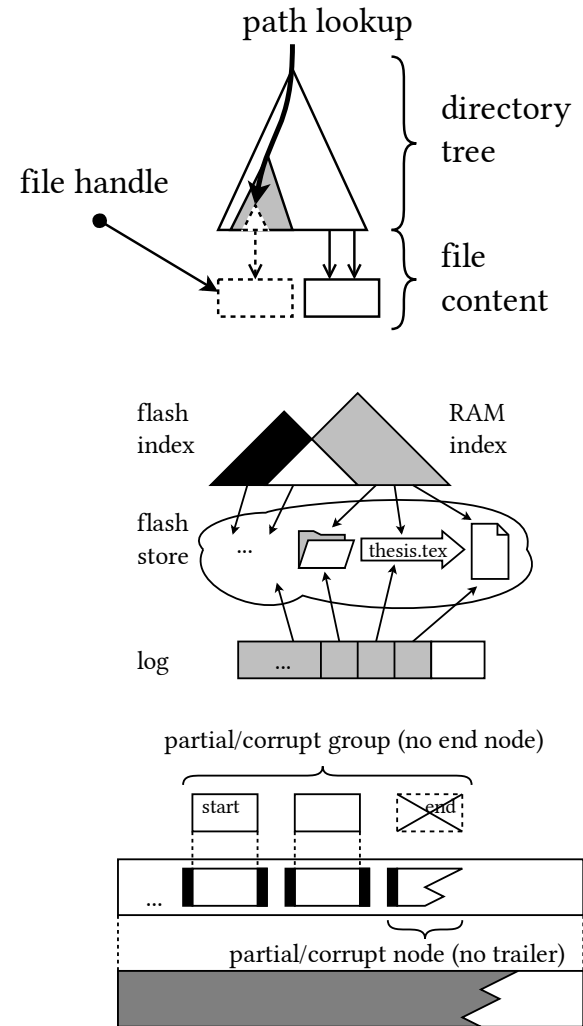
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Motivation: Automated, Interactive Proofs

A typical verification case-study

- custom data types & function definitions
- expressive logic (recursion, quantifiers)
- incremental development



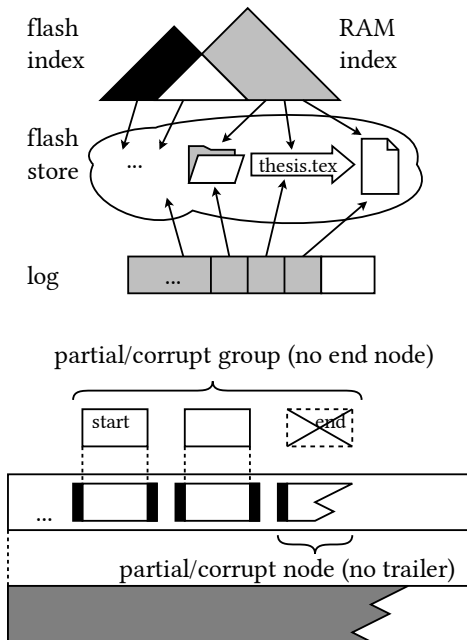
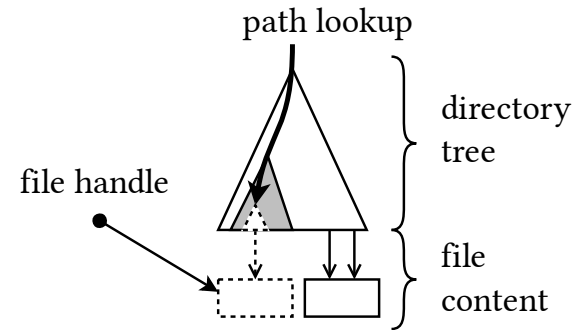
Motivation: Automated, Interactive Proofs

A typical verification case-study

- custom data types & function definitions
- expressive logic (recursion, quantifiers)
- **incremental development**

Bottleneck: formulating & proving lemmas

- break down proof obligations
- automate recurring proof steps



Flashix [Ernst+]

Goal: Theory Exploration

Input

```
data Nat      := 0 | 1+ Nat
```

```
data List<a>  := [] | a :: List<a>
```

```
length([])    := 0
```

```
length(x :: xs) := 1 + length(xs)
```

```
    [] ++ ys := ys
```

```
(x :: xs) ++ ys := x :: (xs ++ ys)
```

inductive
types

recursive
functions

Goal: Theory Exploration

Input

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data Nat      := 0 | 1+ Nat
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inductive
types

```
length([])      := 0
length(x :: xs) := 1 + length(xs)
```

recursive
functions

```
    [] ++ ys := ys
(x :: xs) ++ ys := x :: (xs ++ ys)
```

Output

```
lemma length(xs ++ ys)
      = length(xs) + length(ys)
```

...

“useful/
interesting”
lemmas

Classic Approach: Term Enumeration

[Claessen, Hughes, Johansson+, Singher & Itzhaky, ...]

Algorithm

repeat

sample ϕ : Bool **with** $|\phi| < N$

if theory $\cup$ lemmas **proves** ϕ

 lemmas := lemmas $\cup$ { ϕ }

“complete”
relative to
search space
and prover

In practice

- further restrictions: shape, few duplicate vars, ...
- relevance filter: requires induction, ...
- testing (QuickCheck) vs. inductive proofs (HipSpec, TheSy)

Combinatorial Search Spaces (Table 1)

benchmark	$ F $	baseline enumerator statistics					TheSy	
		candidates	true	$ \Lambda $	?	time	last	killed
nat	8	1 131 799	501	32	1759	6:50:00	26:38:14	>26h
list	18	319 019	408	32	522	1:48:22	10:55:14	>21h
tree	11	123 178	130	20	38	11:25	16:47	
append	5	15 058	133	22	5	02:03	04:32	
filter	6	398	2	5	16	02:11	00:02	
length	5	7 066	558	12	1	01:59	00:00	
map	8	34 726	103	13	35	07:18	37:33	>11h
remove	7	32 302	117	14	13	22:11	13:01	>11h
reverse	4	127 926	427	22	1	03:29	00:02	
rotate	6	12 784	124	20	43	08:50	6:54:22	>11h
runlength	7	68 311	182	23	847	†1:12:12	00:40	>11h

long
runtimes

exponential
in $|\text{definitions}|$

“interesting”
lemmas are rare

productivity
is very sporadic

Example Lemmas over Lists and Trees

```
length(filter(p, xs)) = countif(p, xs)
take(n, map(f, xs))   = map(f, take(n, xs))
rev(rev(xs))          = xs
sum(ys ++ zs)         = sum(ys) + sum(zs)
length(elems(t))      = size(t)
...
```

Example Lemmas over Lists and Trees

```
length(filter(p, xs)) = countif(p, xs)
take(n, map(f, xs))   = map(f, take(n, xs))
rev(rev(xs))          = xs
sum(ys ++ zs)         = sum(ys) + sum(zs)
length(elems(t))      = size(t)
...
```

```
...
rev(rev(xs))
  = take(length(xs), snoc(xs, zero))
```

lemmas from term
enumeration are not
necessarily “useful”

Contribution

LemmaCalc: an approach for theory exploration

- quickly explores a **structured** search space
- lemmas are **intuitive** for humans
- lemmas tend to be **useful** for automation



[10.5281/zenodo.16932462](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.16932462)

Focus: **equations** (associative/distributive laws)

Main method: integrate **program transformations** and **deduction**

Evaluation against enumerative theory exploration

- RQ1: relative explanatory strength of the sets of lemmas generated?
- RQ2: impact of the search space on lemma synthesis time?

What's a Lemma?

one way to present
a computation

$$\begin{aligned}(x - y)^2 &= (x - y)(x - y) \\ &= x^2 - xy - yx + y^2 \\ &= x^2 - xy - xy + y^2 \\ &= x^2 - 2xy + y^2\end{aligned}$$

another way to present
a computation with the same result

What's a Lemma?

$$(x - y)^2$$

$$= (x - y)(x - y)$$

definition of $(_)^2$

$$= x^2 - xy - yx + y^2$$

$$= x^2 - xy - xy + y^2$$

$$= x^2 - 2xy + y^2$$

use lemma $xy = yx$

What's a Lemma?

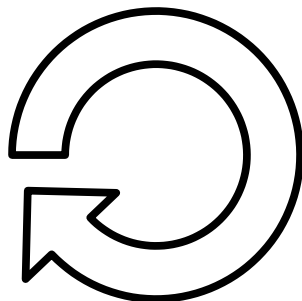
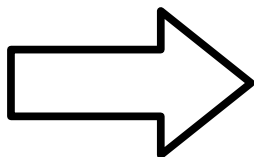
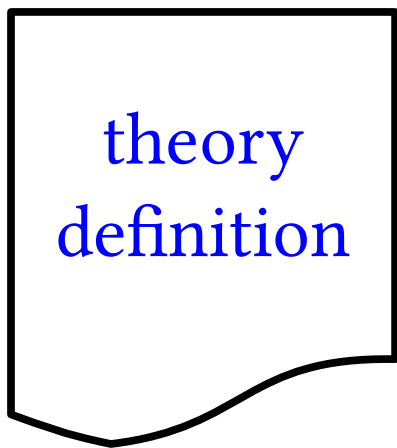
one way to present
a computation

$\text{rev}(xs_1 ++ xs_2)$

$= ???$

$= \text{rev}(xs_2) ++ \text{rev}(xs_1)$

another way to present
a computation with the same result



exploration by program transformations

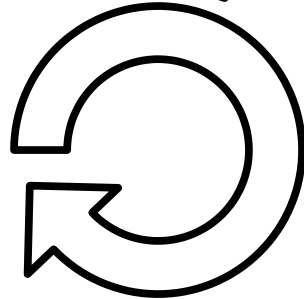
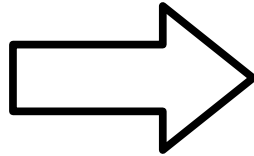
fusion:

$$f(x, g(y)) = \mathbf{fg}(x, y)$$

accumulator removal:

$$h(x, y) = \mathbf{h'}(x) \oplus e(y)$$

theory
definition



generates
synthetic functions
to represent
intermediate results

exploration by program transformations

fusion: $f(x, g(y)) = \mathbf{fg}(x, y)$

accumulator removal: $h(x, y) = \mathbf{h'}(x) \oplus e(y)$

theory
definition



extracted
lemmas

recognition principles

constant functions: $f(x) = c$

identity functions: $f(x) = x$

structural equivalence: $f(x) = g(\pi(x))$

Calculating with Functions

[Bird, Burstall & Darlington, Meijer, ...]

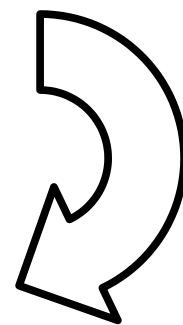
$$\begin{aligned} & \text{rev}(xs_1 \mathbin{++} xs_2) \\ &= \text{rev} \mathbin{++} (xs_1, xs_2) \\ &= \text{rev} \mathbin{++}'(xs_1) \oplus^? e^?(xs_2) \\ &= \text{rev}(xs_2) \mathbin{++} \text{rev} \mathbin{++}'(xs_1) \\ &= \text{rev}(xs_2) \mathbin{++} \text{rev}(xs_1) \end{aligned}$$

Calculating with Functions

[Bird, Burstall & Darlington, Meijer, ...]

$$\begin{aligned}\text{rev}(xs_1 \text{ ++ } xs_2) &= \text{rev++}(xs_1, xs_2) \\ &= \text{rev++}'(xs_1) \oplus^? e^?(xs_2) \\ &= \text{rev}(xs_2) \text{ ++ } \text{rev++}'(xs_1) \\ &= \text{rev}(xs_2) \text{ ++ } \text{rev}(xs_1)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{rev}(\text{rev}(xs)) &= \dots = \text{id}(xs) = xs\end{aligned}$$



unblocks

Calculating with Functions

[Bird, Burstall & Darlington, Meijer, ...]

$\text{rev}(xs_1 \mathrel{++} xs_2)$
 $= \text{rev++}(xs_1, xs_2)$

fusion

[Wadler, SPJ,
Turchin, ...]

Calculating with Functions

[Bird, Burstall & Darlington, Meijer, ...]

$$\begin{aligned} \text{rev}(xs_1 \mathbin{++} xs_2) \\ &= \text{rev} \mathbin{++} (xs_1, \textcolor{red}{xs_2}) \\ &= \textcolor{green}{\text{rev} \mathbin{++}'} (\textcolor{green}{xs_1}) \oplus^? e^?(\textcolor{red}{xs_2}) \end{aligned}$$

fusion

template for accumulator removal

$e^?(_) \quad := \quad ???$

$z_1 \oplus^? z_2 \quad := \quad ???$

[Giesl]

Calculating with Functions

[Bird, Burstall & Darlington, Meijer, ...]

$$\begin{aligned} \text{rev}(xs_1 \mathrel{++} xs_2) \\ &= \text{rev} \mathrel{++} (xs_1, xs_2) \\ &= \text{rev} \mathrel{++}'(xs_1) \oplus^? e^?(xs_2) \\ &= \mathbf{rev}(xs_2) \mathrel{++} \text{rev} \mathrel{++}'(xs_1) \end{aligned}$$

fusion

solution for accumulator removal

$e^?(_) \quad := \mathbf{rev}(_)$

$z_1 \oplus^? z_2 \quad := \mathbf{z_2} \mathrel{++} \mathbf{z_1}$

Calculating with Functions

[Bird, Burstall & Darlington, Meijer, ...]

$$\begin{aligned} \text{rev}(xs_1 \mathbin{++} xs_2) &= \text{rev} \mathbin{++} (xs_1, xs_2) \\ &= \text{rev} \mathbin{++}'(xs_1) \oplus^? e^?(xs_2) \\ &= \text{rev}(xs_2) \mathbin{++} \textcolor{green}{\text{rev} \mathbin{++}'}(xs_1) \\ &= \text{rev}(xs_2) \mathbin{++} \textcolor{blue}{\text{rev}}(xs_1) \end{aligned}$$

recognize that

$$\textcolor{green}{\text{rev} \mathbin{++}'} \equiv \textcolor{blue}{\text{rev}}$$

Why it works

Fusion **regularizes** computations

- optimize away intermediate results (original goal)
- **fg** like **f** but **extra parameters** and more **complex base case**
- **fg** represents a “canned” (amortized) inductive proof

Fused function **rev++**(xs₁, **xs₂**)

rev++(xs₁, **xs₂**) = match xs₁
| case [] → **rev**(**xs₂**)
| case y :: ys → **rev++**(ys, **xs₂**) ++ [y]

base case:
additional
computation

like **rev**

extra parameter

Why it works: **A.R. picks up what is left by fusion**

Fusion **regularizes** computations

- optimize away intermediate results (original goal)
- **fg** like **f** but **extra parameters** and more **complex base case**
- **fg** represents a “canned” (amortized) **inductive proof**

Accumulator removal **factors** computations

- push **computation fragments** out of functions
- template $_ \oplus^? e^?(_)$ represents **inductive generalizations**
- requires choice, but strictly more powerful than fusion! **[Zhu]**

Accumulator Removal for $\text{rev}++(\text{xs}_1, \text{xs}_2)$

$$\text{rev}++(\text{xs}_1, \text{xs}_2) = \text{rev}++'(\text{xs}_1) \oplus^? \text{e}^?(\text{xs}_2)$$

avoid accumulator
in recursion

compensation
operator

compensation
term

Accumulator Removal for $\text{rev}++(\text{xs}_1, \text{xs}_2)$

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$$\begin{aligned} &(\text{match } \text{xs}_1 \\ & \quad | \text{ case } [] \quad \rightarrow \text{rev}(\text{xs}_2) \\ & \quad | \text{ case } y :: \text{ys} \rightarrow \text{rev}++(\text{ys}, \text{xs}_2) ++ [y]) \end{aligned}$$

=

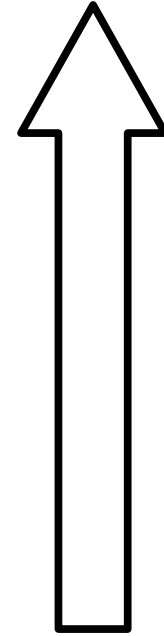
$$\begin{aligned} &(\text{match } \text{xs}_1 \\ & \quad | \text{ case } [] \quad \rightarrow \text{base}^? \\ & \quad | \text{ case } y :: \text{ys} \rightarrow \text{rec}^?(\text{rev}++'(\text{ys}), y)) \oplus^? \text{e}^?(\text{xs}_2) \end{aligned}$$

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additional structure to
instantiate $_ \oplus^? \text{e}^?(_)$

Accumulator Removal for $\text{rev}++(\text{xs}_1, \text{xs}_2)$

$$\text{rev}++(\text{xs}_1, \text{xs}_2) = \text{rev}++'(\text{xs}_1) \oplus^? e^?(\text{xs}_2)$$

(match xs_1
| case [] $\rightarrow \text{rev}(\text{xs}_2)$
| case $y :: \text{ys}$ $\rightarrow \text{rev}++(\text{ys},$
=

$\text{rev}(\text{xs}_2) ++$ (match xs_1
| case [] $\rightarrow []$
| case $y :: \text{ys}$ $\rightarrow \text{rev}++'(\text{ys}) ++ p[y]$)

$e^?(_) := \text{rev}(_)$
 $z_1 \oplus^? z_2 := z_2 ++ z_1$
base $:= []$
rec $:= (\text{original body})$

Heuristics for Accumulator Removal

$$f(x, z) = f'(x) \oplus e'(z)$$

avoid accumulator
in recursion

compensation
operator

compensation
term

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- Choose new base case of f' and compensation operator from functions with neutral elements (e.g. $++$ with $[]$ left/right)

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- Choose new base case of f' and compensation operator from functions with neutral elements (e.g. $++$ with $[]$ left/right)

$$\begin{aligned} & (\dots (\text{rev}(xs_2) ++ [y_1]) \dots ++ [y_{n-1}]) ++ [y_n] \\ = & \text{rev}(xs_2) ++ (\dots ([] ++ [y_1]) \dots ++ [y_{n-1}]) ++ [y_n] \end{aligned}$$

Heuristics for Accumulator Removal

$$f(x, z) = f'(x) \oplus e'(z)$$

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- Choose **new base case** of **f'** and **compensation operator** from functions with neutral elements (e.g. **$++$** with **$[]$** left/right)
- Choose **compensation term** as original base case
(side conditions apply)
- Choose **new recursive case(s)** of **f'** unchanged
(strong limitation: misses some results)

Heuristics for Accumulator Removal

$$f(x, z) = f'(x) \oplus e'(z)$$

avoid accumulator
in recursion

compensation
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- Choose **new base case** of **f'** and **compensation operator** from functions with neutral elements (e.g. **$++$** with **$[]$** left/right)
- Choose **compensation term** as original base case
(side conditions apply)
- Choose **new recursive case(s)** of **f'** **unchanged**
(strong limitation: misses some results)

Evaluation

RQ1: What is the **relative explanatory strength** of the sets of lemmas generated by the different methods?

RQ2: What is the impact of the search space on lemma **synthesis time**?



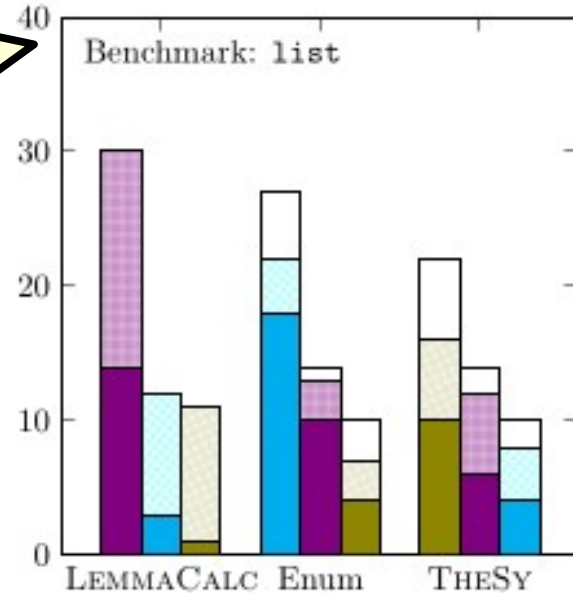
Results: Number of Lemmas

LemmaCalc

Baseline Enumerator

TheSy [Singher, Itzhaky]

“large” theory:
18 functions



~10s >24h each

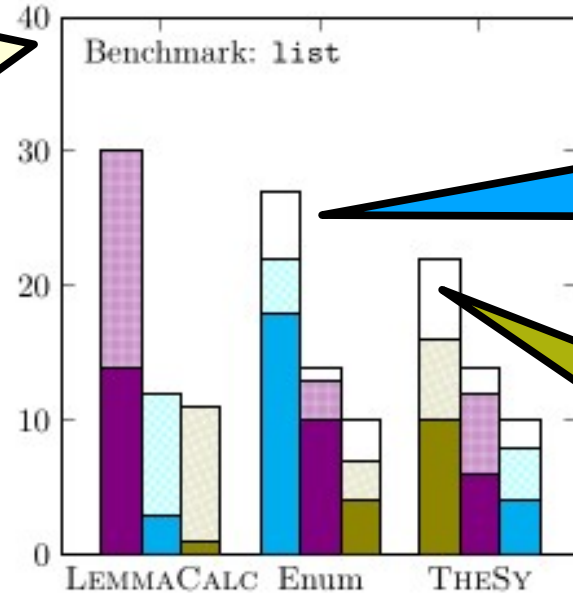
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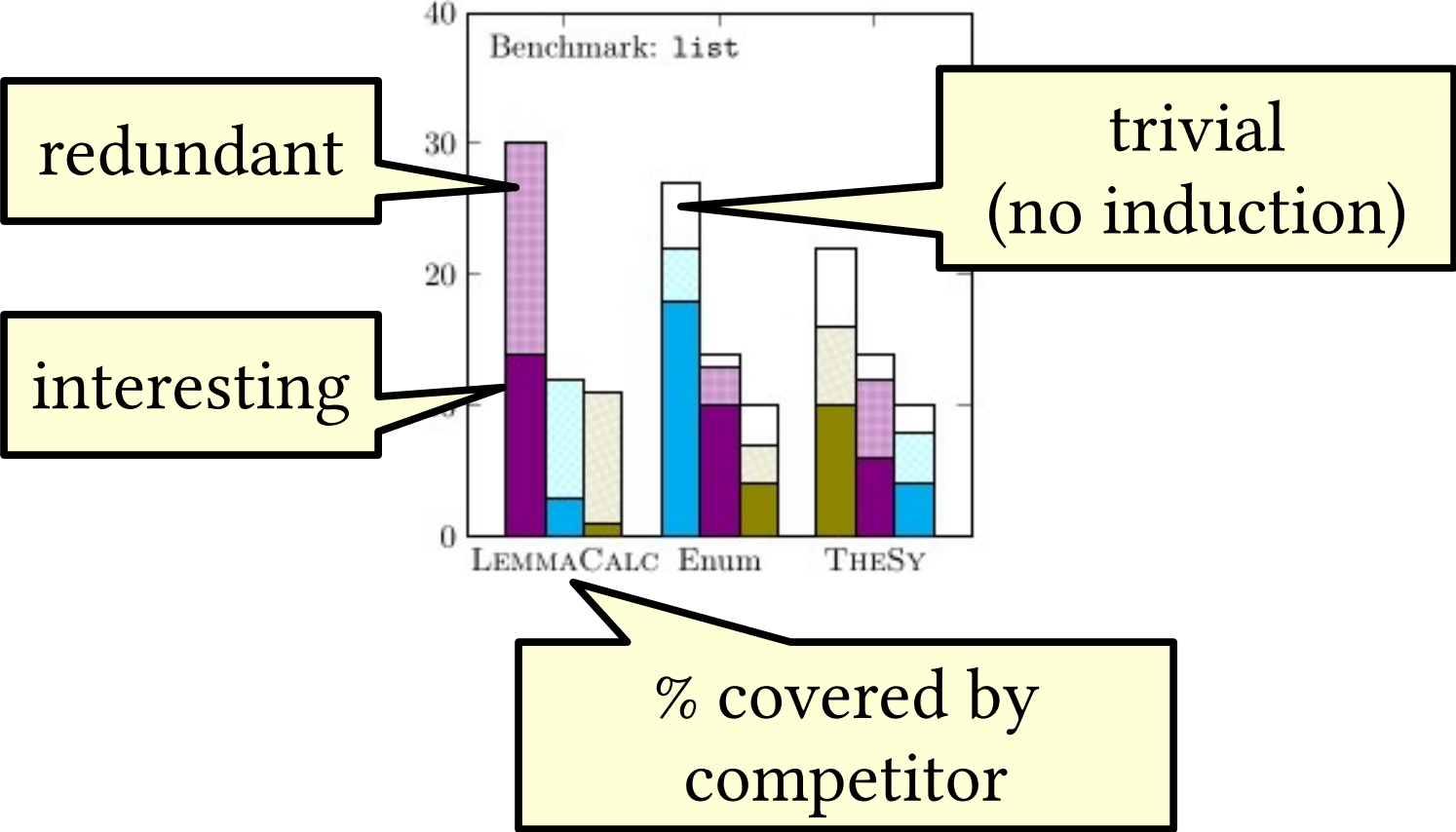
> 300K candidates
 $f(x, g(y)) = ?$

with conditional
lemmas

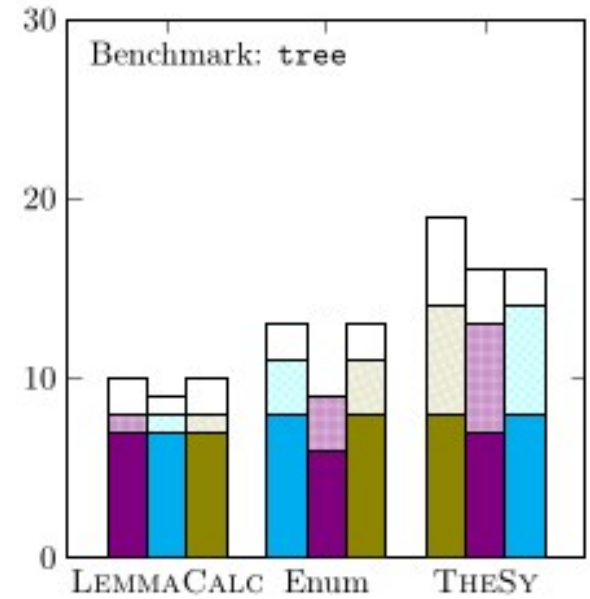
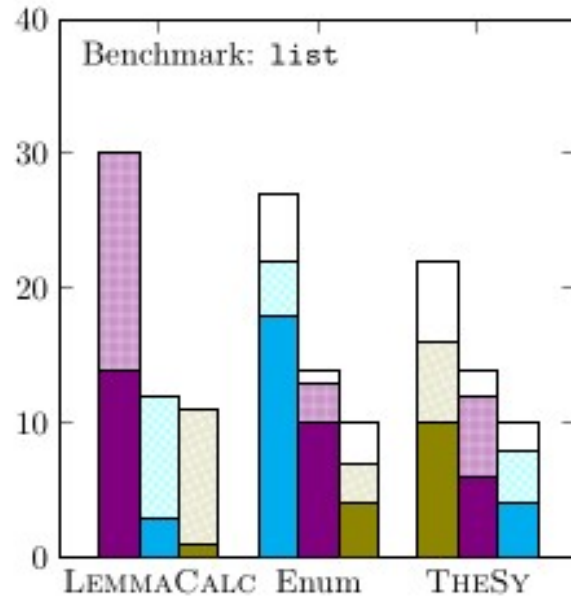
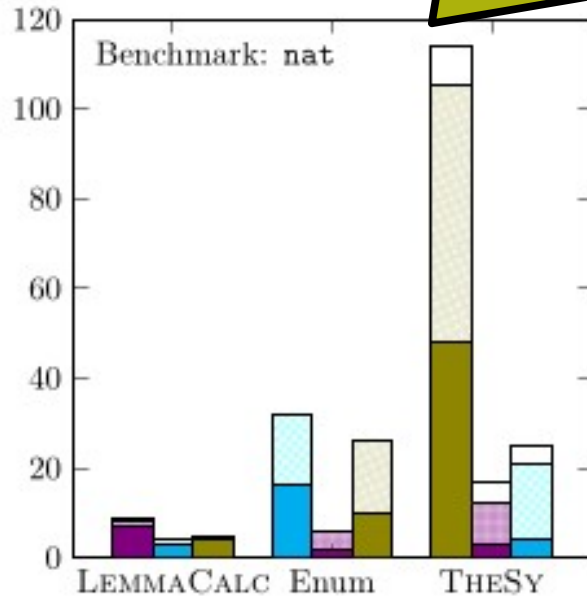
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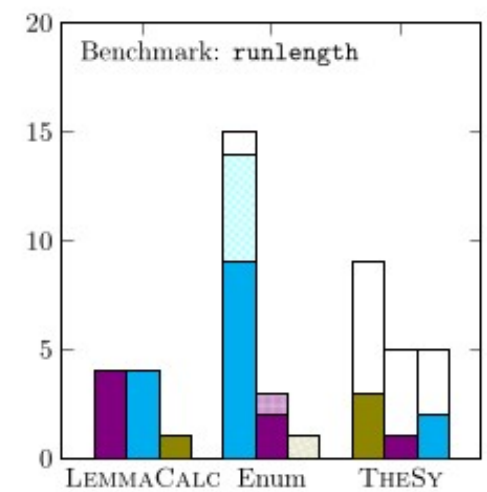
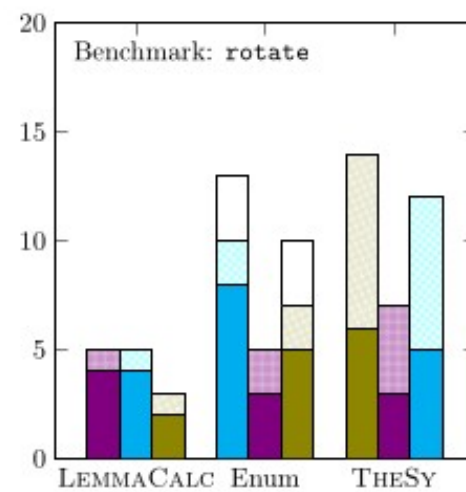
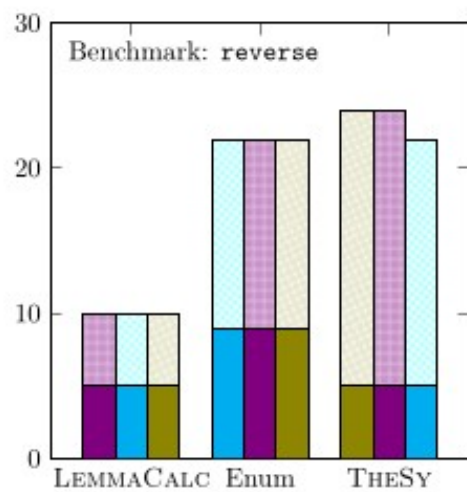
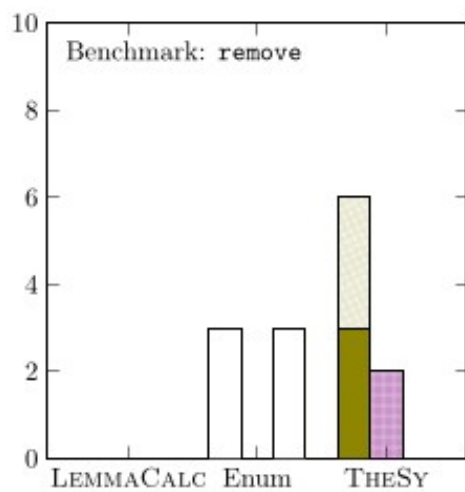
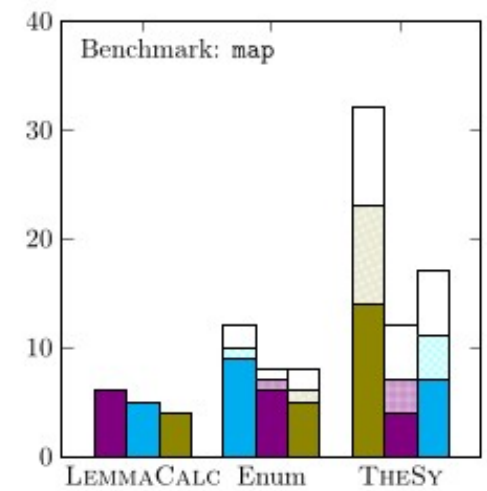
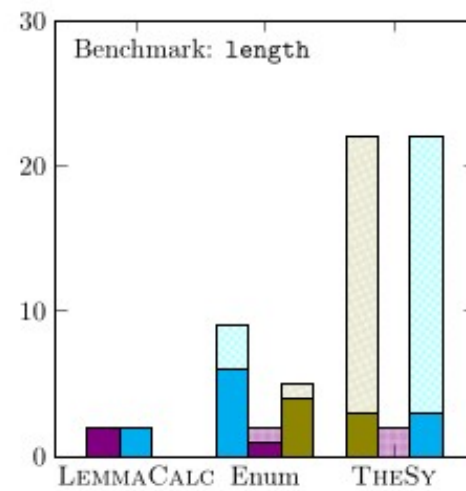
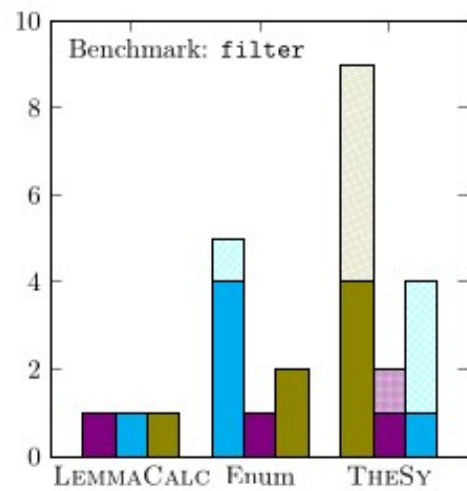
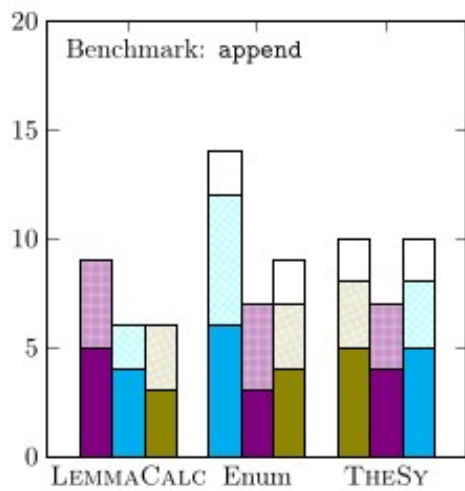
LemmaCalc
Baseline Enumerator
TheSy [Singher, Itzhaky]



many
conditional lemmas



(almost) identical
non-redundant sets



Remark: it is expected that baseline Enum always dominates LemmaCalc (modulo prover)

Results and Discussion

- RQ1: methods have comparable explanatory power but complementary strengths and weaknesses
- RQ2: LemmaCalc is much faster but misses some results
- Key advantage of LemmaCalc over (naive) enumeration
 - **structured** search space
 - potential to **amortize** parts of proofs
 - **short-cuts** via intermittend deduction
- Main current limitation: accumulator-transformations are uninformed and independent of recognition algorithms

Related Work

- [Buchberger, Claessen, Hughes, Johansson](#)
pioneered theory exploration (tools & larger case studies)
- [Sonnex, deAngelis](#)
program transformations make effective proof methods
- [Hamilton & Poitín, Klyuchnikov & Romanenko](#)
suggest fusion for lemma inference (= low hanging fruits)
- [Giesl](#): deaccumulation schemes (not implemented)
- lots of work in the PL community (see paper)

Contribution: LemmaCalc

- **quickly** explores a productive search space
- lemmas tend to be **intuitive** and **useful**
- integrate **transformations** and **deduction**



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Contribution: LemmaCalc

- quickly explores a productive search space
- lemmas tend to be **intuitive** and **useful**
- integrate **transformations** and **deduction**
- **this implementation: proof of concept; current limitations hit “hard ceiling”**
- **outlook:** exploit further short-cuts accumulator transformations
online integration with enumeration



[10.5281/zenodo.16932462](https://zenodo.org/record/1693246)



Appendix

Fusing $\text{rev}(xs_1 \mathrel{++} xs_2)$

```
rev++(xs1, xs2) := rev(xs1 ++ xs2)
    = rev(match xs1
        | case []      → xs2
        | case y::ys → y :: (ys ++ xs2))
    = match xs1
        | case []      → rev(xs2)
        | case y::ys → rev(y :: (ys ++ xs2))
    = match xs1
        | case []      → rev(xs2)
        | case y::ys → rev(ys ++ xs2) ++ [y]
    = match xs1
        | case []      → rev(xs2)
        | case y::ys → rev++(ys, xs2) ++ [y]
```

Define and Unfold [Bird, Burstall & Darlington]

```
rev++(xs1, xs2) := rev(xs1 ++ xs2)  
    = rev(match xs1  
          | case []      → xs2  
          | case y::ys → y :: (ys ++ xs2))  
    = match xs1  
      | case []      → rev(xs2)  
      | case y::ys → rev(y :: (ys ++ xs2))  
    = match xs1  
      | case []      → rev(xs2)  
      | case y::ys → rev(ys ++ xs2) ++ [y]  
    = match xs1  
      | case []      → rev(xs2)  
      | case y::ys → rev++(ys, xs2) ++ [y]
```

Shift Function Application

[Turchin, ...]

```
rev++(xs1, xs2) := rev(xs1 ++ xs2)  
    = rev(match xs1  
        | case []      → xs2  
        | case y::ys → y :: (ys ++ xs2))  
    = match xs1  
        | case []      → rev(xs2)  
        | case y::ys → rev(y :: (ys ++ xs2))  
    = match xs1  
        | case []      → rev(xs2)  
        | case y::ys → rev(ys ++ xs2) ++ [y]  
    = match xs1  
        | case []      → rev(xs2)  
        | case y::ys → rev++(ys, xs2) ++ [y]
```

Apply **Definitions** and known Lemmas

[Gill, Launchbury, SPJ]

```
rev++(xs1, xs2) := rev(xs1 ++ xs2)  
    = rev(match xs1  
        | case []      → xs2  
        | case y::ys → y :: (ys ++ xs2))  
    = match xs1  
        | case []      → rev(xs2)  
        | case y::ys → rev(y :: (ys ++ xs2))  
    = match xs1  
        | case []      → rev(xs2)  
        | case y::ys → rev(ys ++ xs2) ++ [y]  
    = match xs1  
        | case []      → rev(xs2)  
        | case y::ys → rev++(ys, xs2) ++ [y]
```

Simplify and Fold

[Bird, Burstall & Darlington]

```
rev++(xs1, xs2) := rev(xs1 ++ xs2)
  = rev(match xs1
        | case []      → xs2
        | case y::ys → y :: (ys ++ xs2))
  = match xs1
    | case []      → rev(xs2)
    | case y::ys → rev(y :: (ys ++ xs2))
  = match xs1
    | case []      → rev(xs2)
    | case y::ys → rev(ys ++ xs2) ++ [y]
  = match xs1
    | case []      → rev(xs2)
    | case y::ys → rev++(ys, xs2) ++ [y]
```


Fusing `rev(rev(xs))`

```
rev2(xs) := rev(rev(xs))
          = rev(match xs
                | case [] → []
                | case y::ys → rev(ys) ++ [y])
          = match xs
                | case [] → rev([])
                | case y::ys → rev(rev(ys) ++ [y])
          = match xs
                | case [] → rev([])
                | case y::ys → rev([y]) ++ rev(rev(ys))
          = match xs
                | case [] → []
                | case y::ys → y :: rev2(ys)
          = id(xs) = xs
```

Final Lemma

```
rev2(xs) := rev(rev(xs))  
    = rev(match xs  
        | case [] → []  
        | case y::ys → rev(ys) ++ [y])  
    = match xs  
        | case [] → rev([])  
        | case y::ys → rev(rev(ys) ++ [y])  
    = match xs  
        | case [] → rev([])  
        | case y::ys → rev([y]) ++ rev(rev(ys))  
    = match xs  
        | case [] → []  
        | case y::ys → y :: rev2(ys)  
    = id(xs) = xs
```

Define and Unfold

[Bird, Burstall & Darlington]

```
rev2(xs) := rev(rev(xs))
          = rev(match xs
                | case [] → []
                | case y::ys → rev(ys) ++ [y])
          = match xs
            | case [] → rev([])
            | case y::ys → rev(rev(ys) ++ [y])
          = match xs
            | case [] → rev([])
            | case y::ys → rev([y]) ++ rev(rev(ys))
          = match xs
            | case [] → []
            | case y::ys → y :: rev2(ys)
          = id(xs) = xs
```

Shift Function Application

[Turchin, ...]

```
rev2(xs) := rev(rev(xs))
          = rev(match xs
                | case [] → []
                | case y::ys → rev(ys) ++ [y])
          = match xs
                | case [] → rev([])
                | case y::ys → rev(rev(ys) ++ [y])
          = match xs
                | case [] → rev([])
                | case y::ys → rev([y]) ++ rev(rev(ys))
          = match xs
                | case [] → []
                | case y::ys → y :: rev2(ys)
          = id(xs) = xs
```

Intermittent Deduction using **Prior Lemmas**

[Gill, Launchbury, SPJ]

```
rev2(xs) := rev(rev(xs))
          = rev(match xs
                    | case [] → []
                    | case y::ys → rev(ys) ++ [y])
          = match xs
            | case [] → rev([])
            | case y::ys → rev(rev(ys) ++ [y])
          = match xs
            | case [] → rev([])
            | case y::ys → rev([y]) ++ rev(rev(ys))
          = match xs
            | case [] → []
            | case y::ys → y :: rev2(ys)
          = id(xs) = xs
```

Intermittent Deduction using Prior Lemmas

[Gill, Launchbury, SPJ]

```
rev2(xs) := rev(rev(xs))  
          = rev(match xs  
                | case [] → []  
                | case y::ys → rev(ys) ++ [y])  
          = match xs  
            | case [] → rev([])  
            | case y::ys → rev(rev(ys) ++ [y])  
          = match xs  
            | case [] → rev([])  
            | case y::ys → rev([y]) ++ rev(rev(ys))
```

most difficult step, requires to know already
 $\text{rev}(xs_1 ++ xs_2) = \text{rev}(xs_2) ++ \text{rev}(xs_1)$

Simplify and Fold

[Bird, Burstall & Darlington]

```
rev2(xs) := rev(rev(xs))  
          = rev(match xs  
                | case [] → []  
                | case y::ys → rev(ys) ++ [y])  
          = match xs  
            | case [] → rev([])  
            | case y::ys → rev(rev(ys) ++ [y])  
          = match xs  
            | case [] → rev([])  
            | case y::ys → rev([y]) ++ rev(rev(ys))  
          = match xs  
            | case [] → []  
            | case y::ys → y :: rev2(ys)  
          = id(xs) = xs
```

Recognize **identity**, constant, existing Functions

```
rev2(xs) := rev(rev(xs))  
          = rev(match xs  
                | case [] → []  
                | case y::ys → rev(ys) ++ [y])  
          = match xs  
            | case [] → rev([])  
            | case y::ys → rev(rev(ys) ++ [y])  
          = match xs  
            | case [] → rev([])  
            | case y::ys → rev([y]) ++ rev(rev(ys))  
          = match xs  
            | case [] → []  
            | case y::ys → y :: rev2(ys)  
          = id(xs) = xs
```