

Automated Analysis of Logically Constrained Programs

Jonas Schöpf



Data Lab Hell
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Jonas Schöpf

- computer science @ UIBK
- Computational Logic
- mathematics \cap computer science
- PhD in computer science (\sim summer 2025)

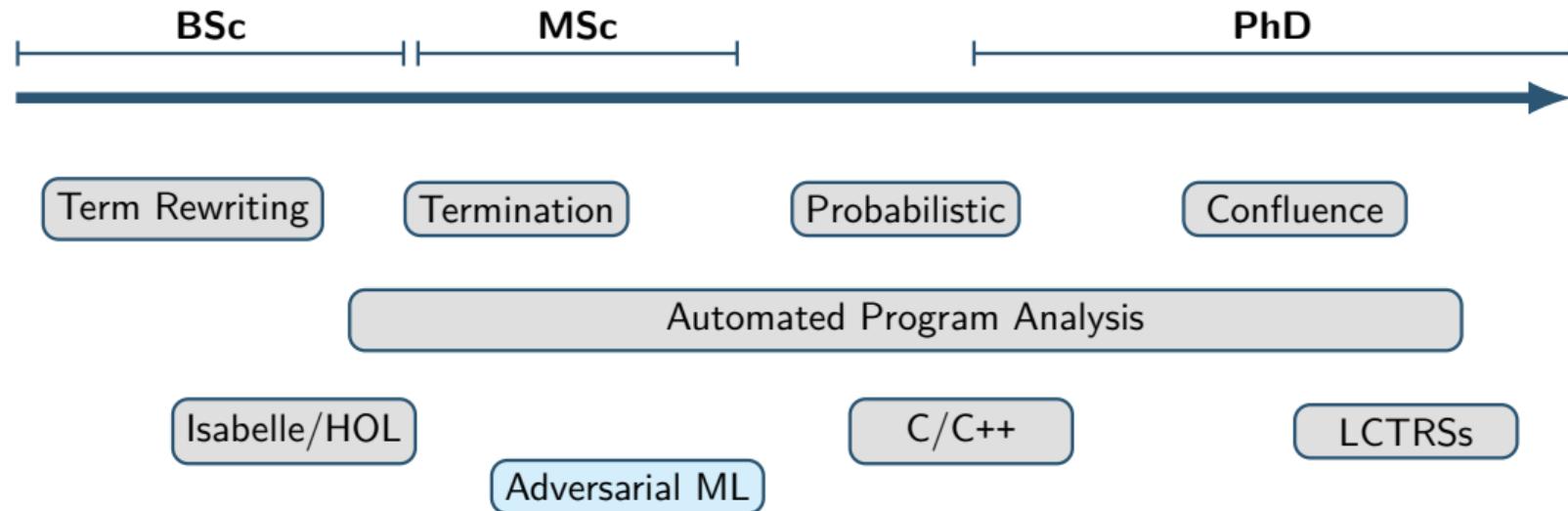


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- Overview
- LCTRSs
- Confluence Analysis
- Automation

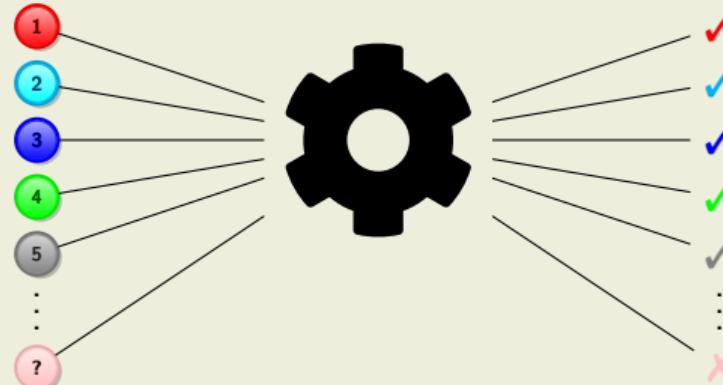
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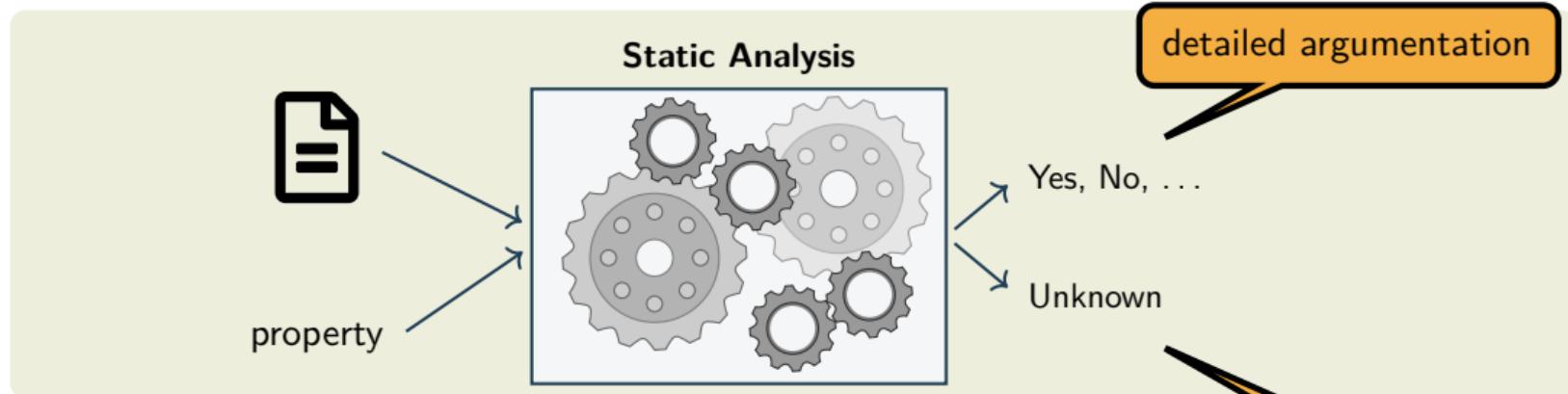
How to Avoid Bugs?

- program carefully? skilled programmers?
- bugs are not obvious
- complex (million lines of code)
- bugs may not be detected by testing

Testing?



Static Program Analysis



Properties

- **termination** does the program finish in a finite amount of time?
- **confluence** does the program compute unique solutions?
- **complexity** how long does the program run?
- ...

Term Rewrite Systems (TRSs)

set of function symbols	{ max, 0 }
set of variables	{ x, y, z, ... }
terms	max(x, y), max(max(x, 0), z), ...
rules	max(s(0), 0) → s(0)
set of rules	{ max(s(0), 0) → s(0), ... }

- terms represent program states
- rewriting represents computation
- term rewriting is Turing-complete

Term Rewrite System

signature $\{\text{max}, \text{ite}, \text{s}, \text{p}, \text{geq}, \text{geq2}, 0, \text{true}, \text{false}\}$ and rules

$$\text{max}(x, y) \rightarrow \text{ite}(\text{geq}(x, y), x, y)$$

$$\text{max}(x, y) \rightarrow \text{max}(y, x)$$

$$\text{s}(\text{p}(x)) \rightarrow x$$

$$\text{geq}(x, y) \rightarrow \text{geq2}(x, y, 0, 0)$$

$$\text{geq2}(\text{p}(x), y, z, u) \rightarrow \text{geq2}(x, y, z, \text{s}(u))$$

$$\text{geq2}(0, \text{p}(x), y, z) \rightarrow \text{geq2}(0, x, \text{s}(y), z)$$

$$\text{geq2}(0, 0, x, 0) \rightarrow \text{true}$$

$$\text{ite}(\text{true}, x, y) \rightarrow x$$

$$\text{ite}(\text{false}, x, y) \rightarrow y$$

$$\text{p}(\text{s}(x)) \rightarrow x$$

$$\text{geq2}(\text{s}(x), y, z, u) \rightarrow \text{geq2}(x, y, \text{s}(z), u)$$

$$\text{geq2}(0, \text{s}(x), y, z) \rightarrow \text{geq2}(0, x, y, \text{s}(z))$$

$$\text{geq2}(0, 0, \text{s}(x), \text{s}(y)) \rightarrow \text{geq2}(0, 0, x, y)$$

$$\text{geq2}(0, 0, 0, \text{s}(x)) \rightarrow \text{false}$$

compute $\text{max}(4, 5)$:

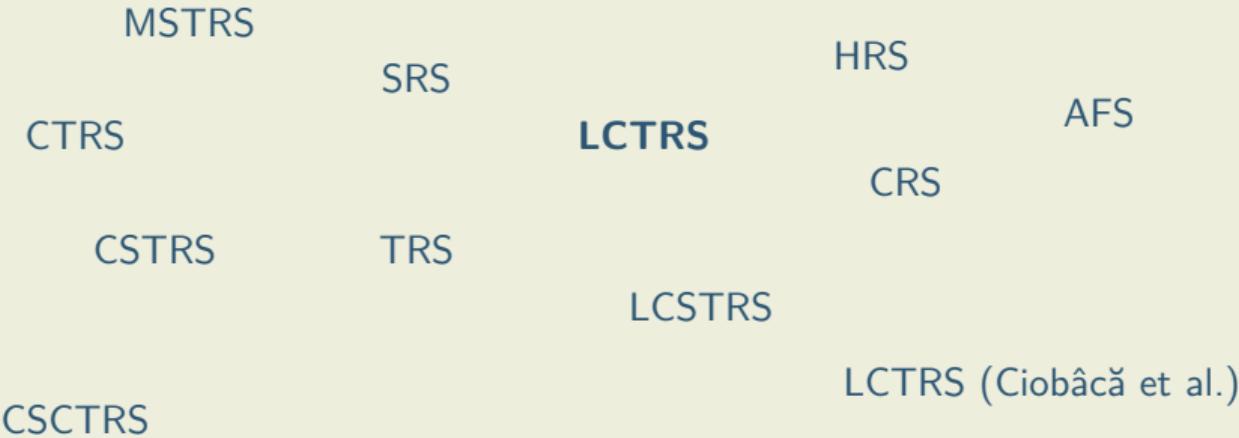
$$\text{max}(\text{s}(\text{s}(\text{s}(\text{s}(0)))), \text{s}(\text{s}(\text{s}(\text{s}(0))))))$$

$$\text{max}(\text{s}^4(0), \text{s}^5(0)) \rightarrow \text{ite}(\text{geq}(\text{s}^4(0), \text{s}^5(0)), \text{s}^4(0), \text{s}^5(0))$$

$$\rightarrow \text{ite}(\text{geq2}(\text{s}^4(0), \text{s}^5(0)), \text{s}^4(0), \text{s}^5(0), 0, 0)$$

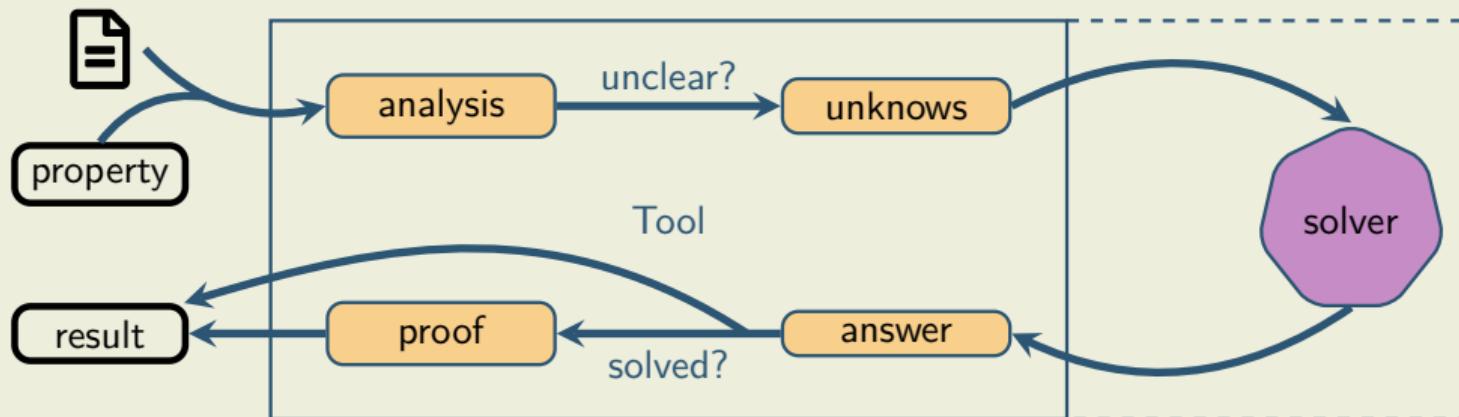
$$\rightarrow^{12} \text{s}^5(0) = \text{s}(\text{s}(\text{s}(\text{s}(0)))))$$

Rewriting Formalisms



Automation

- tedious & error-prone by hand
- large & complex systems
- properties involve non-trivial checks



Tools

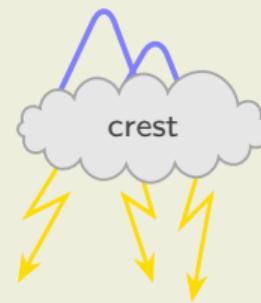


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Example

LCTRS \mathcal{M}

$$\mathcal{I}_{\text{Bool}} = \mathbb{B}$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{\text{te}} = \dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots : \text{Int}$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{\text{th}} = \dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots : \text{Int}$$

$$\text{true}, \text{false} : \text{Bool}$$

$$\neg : [\text{Bool}] \Rightarrow \text{Bool}$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\text{Int}} = \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\max : [\text{Int}] \Rightarrow \text{Int}$$

$$\wedge : [\text{Bool} \times \text{Bool}] \Rightarrow \text{Bool}$$

$$+, - : [\text{Int} \times \text{Int}] \Rightarrow \text{Int}$$

$$\leqslant, \geqslant, = : [\text{Int} \times \text{Int}] \Rightarrow \text{Bool}$$

$$\mathcal{M} = \quad \max(x, y) \rightarrow x \ [x \geqslant y] \quad \max(x, y) \rightarrow y \ [y \geqslant x] \quad \max(x, y) \rightarrow \max(y, x)$$

compute $\max(4, 5)$:

$$\max(4, 5) \rightarrow 5$$

$$\max(\mathbf{s}(\mathbf{s}(\mathbf{s}(\mathbf{s}(0)))), \mathbf{s}(\mathbf{s}(\mathbf{s}(\mathbf{s}(\mathbf{s}(0)))))) \rightarrow^{14} \mathbf{s}(\mathbf{s}(\mathbf{s}(\mathbf{s}(0))))$$

Utilize SMT Solver

- solving formula with special interpretations
- built-in structures (e.g. integers)
- term (syntax) & theory (semantics)
- automation via SMT-solvers
 - recently more powerful
 - real numbers, integers, bit-vectors, arrays, ...
 - Z3, CVC5, ...

Computational Model

- difficult on real programs
- use computational model
- formal methods

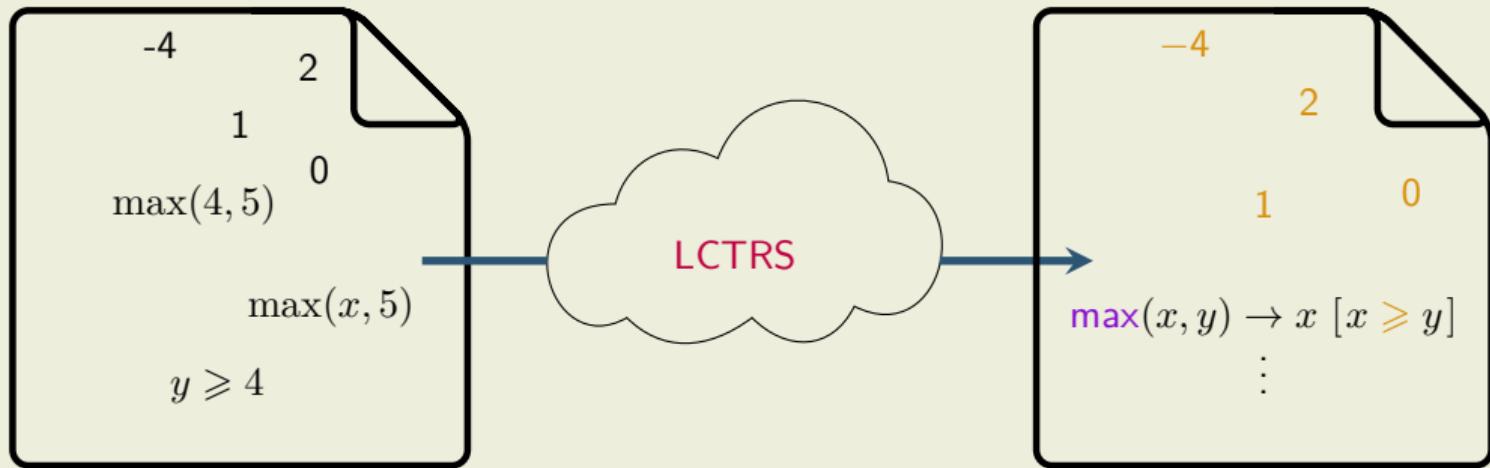


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Confluence

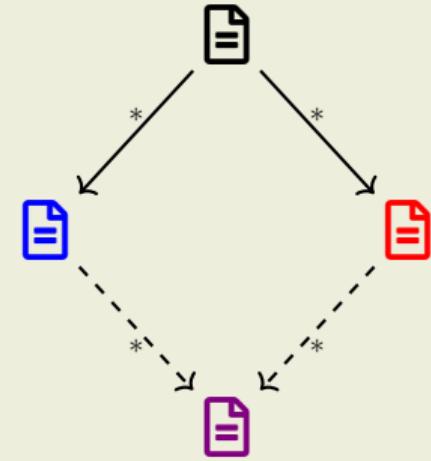
- no general way
- test this for all computations?
- extract critical parts

Term Rewrite System (TRS)

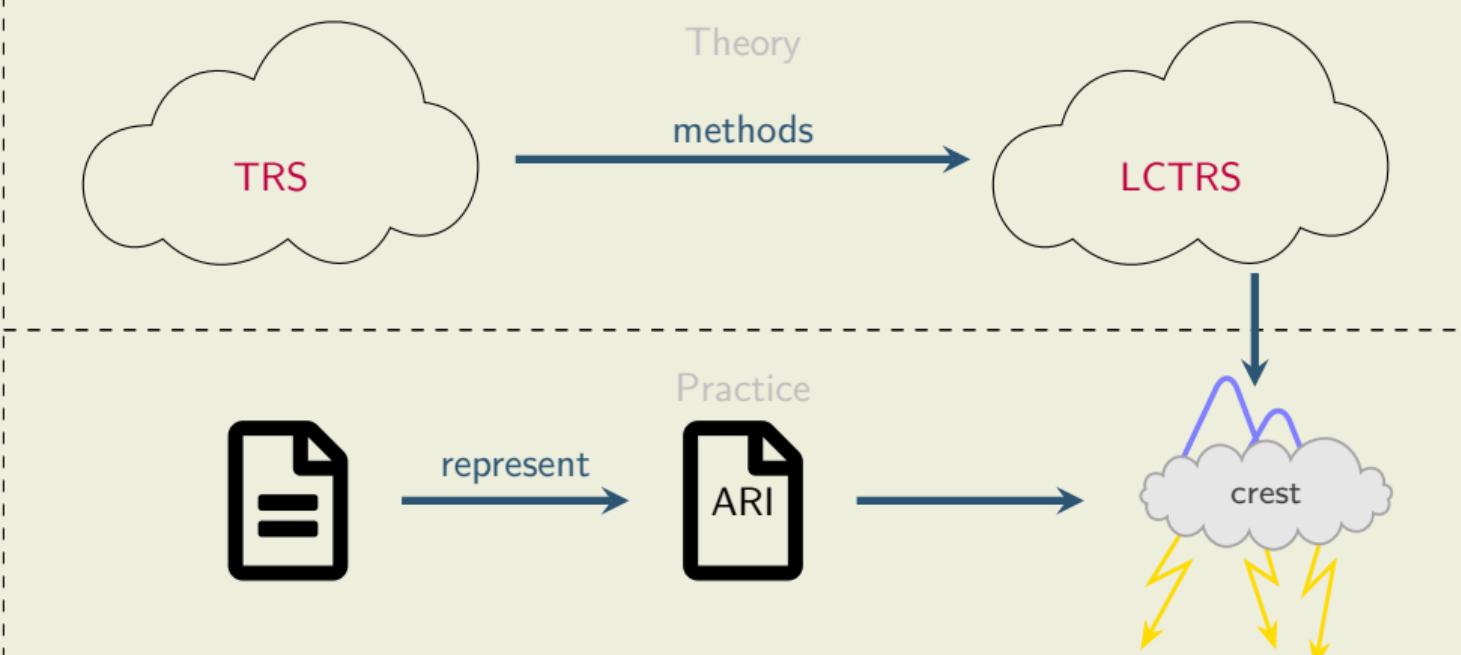
- many methods for confluence
- decades of research
- difficult for real programs

Logically Constrained TRS (LCTRS)

- extension of TRS
- built-in computations (including solvers)
- not many methods
- re-use existing knowledge



My Research



Example

computation rules

$$\max(x, y) \rightarrow x [x \geq y]$$

$$\max(x, y) \rightarrow y [y \geq x]$$

$$\max(x, y) \rightarrow \max(y, x)$$

critical parts

$$x \approx y [y \geq x \wedge x \geq y]$$

$$x \approx \max(y, x) [x \geq y]$$

$$y \approx \max(y, x) [y \geq x]$$

confluence criterion

...

$$x \approx \max(y, x) [x \geq y] \rightarrow x \approx x [x \geq y]$$

...

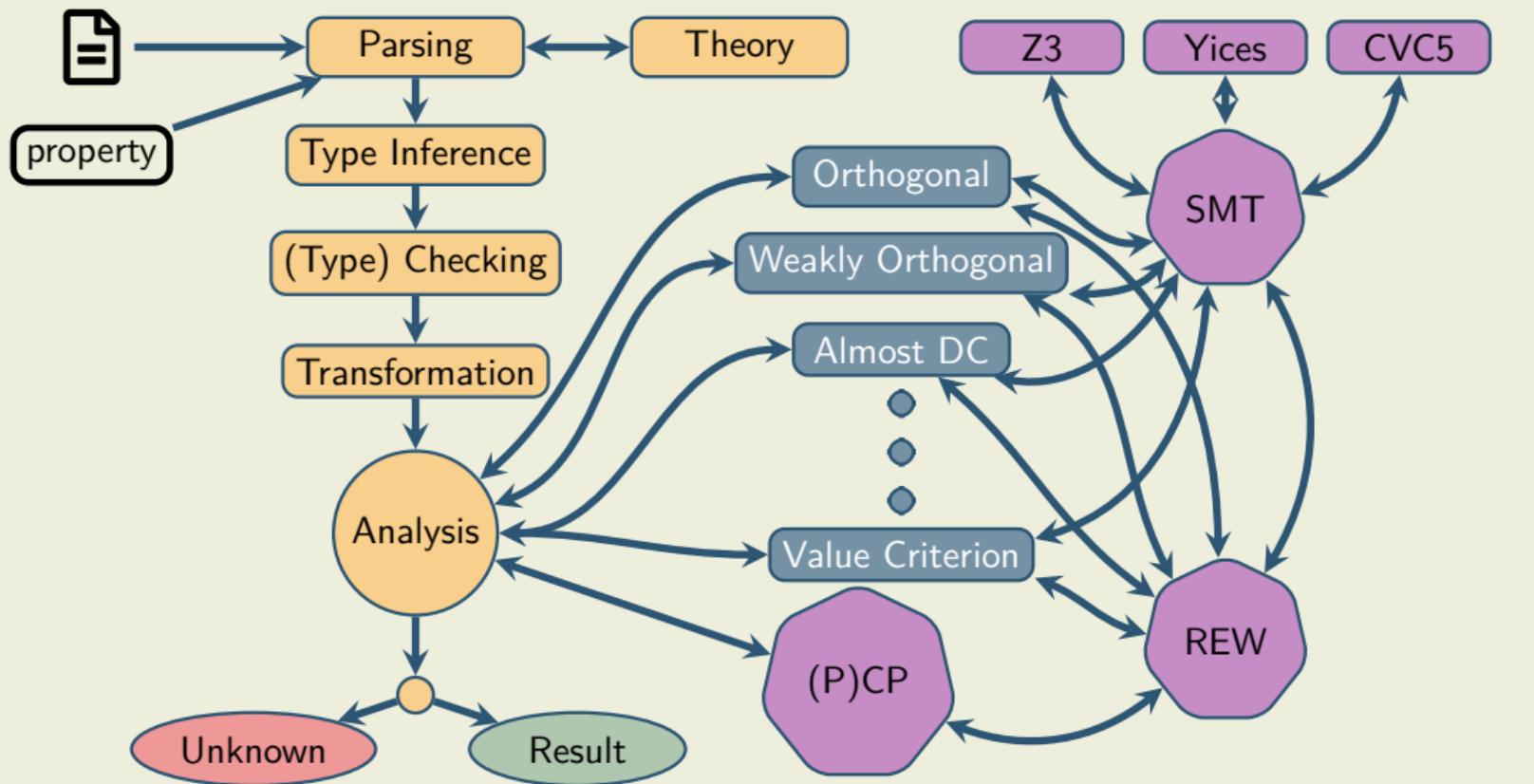


\implies confluence

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Simplified Overview of crest



Confluence Competiton

- annual competition since 2012
- LCTRS category 2024
- 1st place for crest

Confluence Experiments on 107 Problems

tool	✓	✗	solved	time (total)
CRaris	58	0	54 %	14 s
crest	72	26	92 %	197 s
Ctrl	54	0	50 %	18 s

Summary

- programs have bugs & testing may not suffice
- program analysis with computational model (LCTRSs)
- methods for confluence of LCTRSs
- push-button automation