

Abstraction III

Property Abstraction

(based on Patrick Cousot's 2005 course "Abstract Interpretation")

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Given a closure operator ρ on a poset $\langle L, \sqsubseteq \rangle$ (typically L is $\mathcal{P}(\Sigma)$), Morgado's theorem ¹ states that for all $P, P' \in L$:

$$\rho(P) \sqsubseteq \rho(P') \Leftrightarrow P \sqsubseteq \rho(P')$$

that is, by definition of Galois connections ($1_L \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda x \in L. x$):

$$\langle L, \sqsubseteq \rangle \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{1_L} \\ \xrightarrow{\rho} \end{array} \langle \rho(L), \sqsubseteq \rangle$$

¹Proof of Morgado's theorem:

$$\text{"}\Leftarrow\text{"}: P \sqsubseteq \rho(P') \xrightarrow{\text{increasing}} \rho(P) \sqsubseteq \rho(\rho(P')) \xrightarrow{\text{idempotent}} \rho(P) \sqsubseteq \rho(P')$$

$$\text{"}\Rightarrow\text{"}: \rho(P) \sqsubseteq \rho(P') \xrightarrow{\text{extensive}} P \sqsubseteq \rho(P) \sqsubseteq \rho(P') \xrightarrow{\text{transitivity}} P \sqsubseteq \rho(P) \sqsubseteq \rho(P')$$

Proof.

We must prove

$\forall x \in L : \forall y \in \rho(L) : (\rho(x) \sqsubseteq y \iff (x \sqsubseteq 1_L(y)))$. We have $y \in \rho(L)$ iff $\exists z \in L : \rho(z) = y$ so that this condition is equivalent to $\forall x, z \in L : (\rho(x) \sqsubseteq \rho(z)) \iff (x \sqsubseteq \rho(z))$ which directly follows from Morgado's theorem. Moreover ρ is surjective on $\rho(L)$. \square

- Let $\langle A, \leq \rangle$ be an order-isomorphic representation of the abstract domain $\langle \rho(L), \sqsubseteq \rangle$. We have

$$\langle \rho(L), \sqsubseteq \rangle \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\epsilon^{-1}} \\ \xrightarrow{\epsilon} \end{array} \langle A, \leq \rangle$$

where ϵ^{-1} is the inverse of the bijection $\epsilon \in \rho(L) \rightarrow A$

By composition, we get:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xleftarrow{1_L \circ \epsilon^{-1}} & \\ \langle L, \sqsubseteq \rangle & \xrightarrow{\epsilon \circ \rho} & \langle A, \leq \rangle \\ & & \end{array}$$

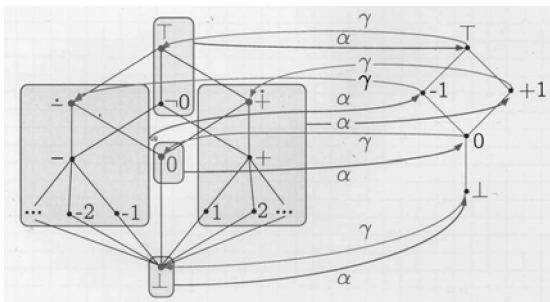
$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & 1_L \circ \epsilon^{-1} = \gamma & & \\ & \swarrow & & \searrow & \\ \langle L, \sqsubseteq \rangle & \xleftarrow{1_L} & \langle \rho(L), \sqsubseteq \rangle & \xleftarrow{\epsilon^{-1}} & \langle A, \leq \rangle \\ & \xrightarrow{\rho} & & \xrightarrow{\epsilon} & \\ & & \epsilon \circ \rho = \alpha & & \end{array}$$

- Inversely, we can consider a Galois surjection

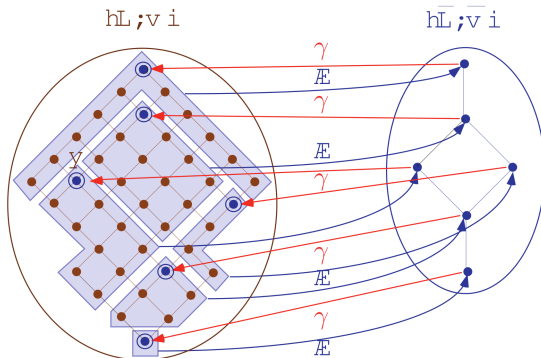
$$\langle L, \sqsubseteq \rangle \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\gamma} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha} \end{array} \langle A, \leq \rangle$$

- Then $\rho = \gamma \circ \alpha$ is a closure operator and $\langle A, \leq \rangle$ is order-isomorphic to $\langle \rho(L), \sqsubseteq \rangle$
- We have an order-isomorphic representation of the abstract domain $\langle \rho(L), \sqsubseteq \rangle$, which is a Moore family.

Specification of an abstract domain by a Galois surjection, example



Because α is surjective, γ is injective and order is preserved, each element in the Moore family $\{\perp, 0, \dot{-}, \dot{+}, \top\}$ has a unique isomorphic representation $\{\perp, 0, -1, +1, \top\}$. This would not be the case when α is not surjective.

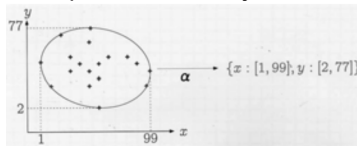


- \odot : Moore family of best approximations;
- \square : concrete values with the same abstraction.

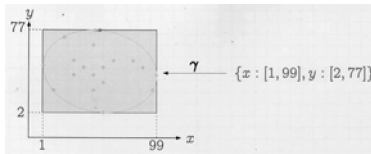
A graphical illustration of the specification of an abstraction by a Galois surjection



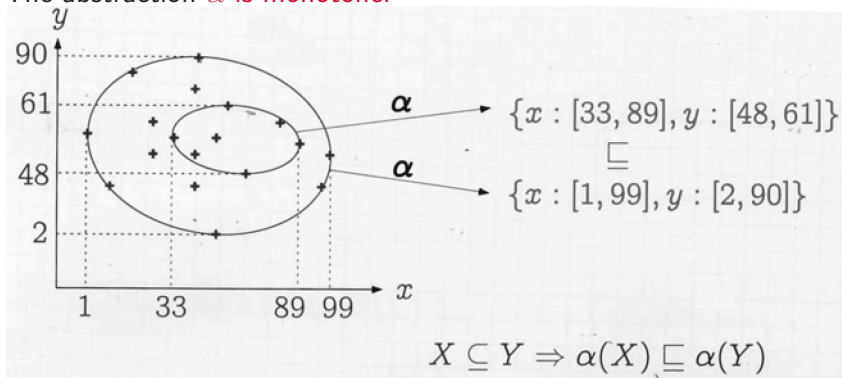
- Abstraction of a set of points in \mathbb{R}^2 by an interval:



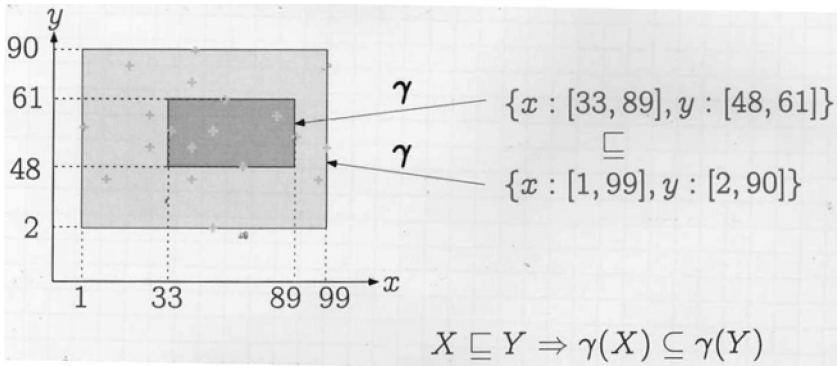
- Concretization:



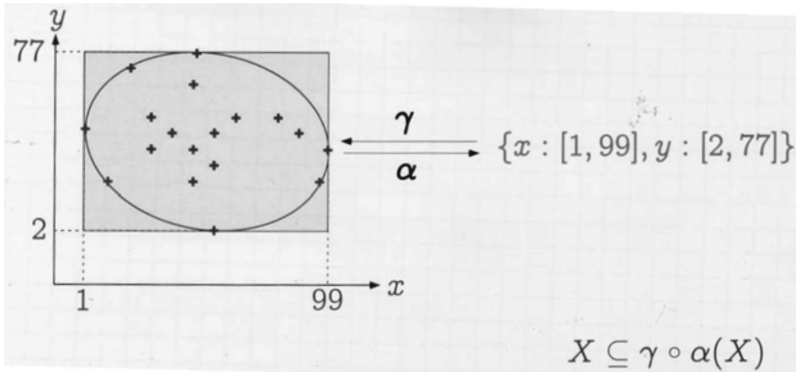
- The abstraction α is monotone:



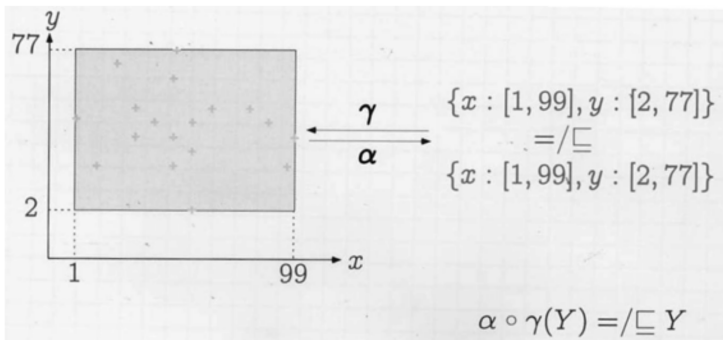
- The concretization γ is monotone:



- $\gamma \circ \alpha$ is extensive (indeed an upper closure operator):



- The composition $\alpha \circ \gamma$ is:
 - The identity for Galois surjections
 - Reductive (ideed a lower-closure operator) for Galois connections ²



²providing the least abstract properties with similar expressive power that is same concretization.

- The intuition of \sqsubseteq is that $\bar{P} \sqsubseteq \bar{P}'$ implies $\gamma(\bar{P}) \subseteq \gamma(\bar{P}')$ so that \bar{P} is more precise than \bar{P}' when expressed in the concrete.
- So $\alpha \circ \gamma(\bar{P}) \sqsubseteq \bar{P}$ means that concretization can lose no information, since if the concrete property P is overapproximated by \bar{P} then

$$\begin{aligned}
 P &\subseteq \gamma(\bar{P}) \\
 \iff P &\subseteq \gamma(\alpha \circ \gamma(\bar{P}))
 \end{aligned}$$

so that using \bar{P} or $\alpha \circ \gamma(\bar{P})$ is exactly the **same** in the concrete, as far as precision is concerned.

Why are abstract domains complete lattices in the presence of best abstractions?

- The abstractions start from the complete lattice of concrete properties $\langle \mathcal{P}(\Sigma), \subseteq, \emptyset, \Sigma, \cup, \cap, \neg \rangle$ where objects in Σ represent program computations and the elements of $\mathcal{P}(\Sigma)$ represent properties of these program computations
- We have defined abstract domains with best approximations in three **equivalent** different ways
 - As a Moore family;
 - As a closure operator (which fixpoints form the abstract domain);
 - As the image of the concrete domain by a Galois surjection.

- In all cases, it follows that the abstract domain is a complete lattice:
 - A Moore family of a complete lattice is a complete lattice;
 - The image of a complete lattice by an upper closure operator is a complete lattice;
 - The image of a complete lattice by the surjective abstraction of a Galois connection is a complete lattice.
- In general this property **does not hold in absence of a best abstraction** or if arbitrary points are added to the abstract domain as shown next.

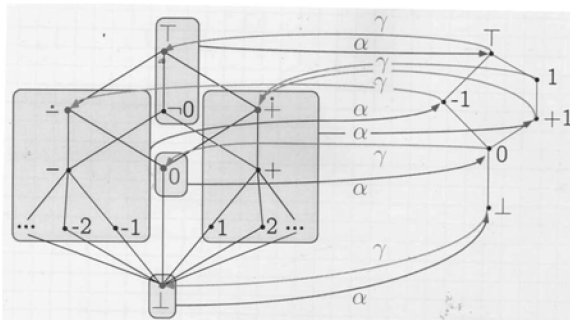
- Assume the correspondence between concrete and abstract properties is a non-surjective (α is not surjective) Galois connection:

$$\langle L, \sqsubseteq \rangle \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\gamma} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha} \end{array} \langle A, \leq \rangle$$

- γ is not injective, which means that at least two different abstract properties \bar{P}_1 and \bar{P}_2 have exactly the same concretization:

$$\bar{P}_1 \neq \bar{P}_2 \wedge \gamma(\bar{P}_1) = \gamma(\bar{P}_2)$$

Example of non-surjective Galois connection based abstraction



Here “1” and “+1” are two different encodings of the same concrete property $\dot{+}$ (i.e; positive or zero).

- With non-surjective Galois connections $\langle L, \sqsubseteq \rangle \xrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle A, \leq \rangle$ there are at least two different representations in the abstract of at least one concrete property
- This may happen when abstract computer representations of the same concrete property are not unique (e.g. sets represented by ordered trees)
- Reduction is always mathematically possible, by considering

$$\langle L, \sqsubseteq \rangle \xrightarrow[\alpha_{\equiv}]{\gamma_{\equiv}} \langle A_{\equiv}, \leq_{\equiv} \rangle \text{ where } \bar{P} \equiv \bar{P}' \Leftrightarrow \gamma(\bar{P}) = \gamma(\bar{P}'),$$

$$\alpha_{\equiv}(P) = [\alpha(P)]_{\equiv}, \gamma([\bar{P}]_{\equiv}) = \gamma(\bar{P}) \text{ and}$$

$$[\bar{P}]_{\equiv} \leq_{\equiv} [\bar{P}']_{\equiv} \Leftrightarrow \bar{P} \leq \bar{P}'$$

■ Example:

- Abstract properties are intervals $[a, b]$ meaning $\gamma([a, b]) \stackrel{def}{=} \{x \mid \text{minint} \leq a \leq x \leq b \leq \text{maxint}\}$
- The empty set is represented by any $[a, b]$ with $b < a$. This can be left as is or normalized as e.g. $[\text{maxint}, \text{minint}]$
- The supremum is represented by any $[a, b]$ with $a \leq \text{minint}$ and $\text{maxint} \leq b$. This can be left as is or better normalized as e.g. $[\text{minint}, \text{maxint}]$
- Sometimes it is better to have a “normal form”, but this reduction may also be sometimes algorithmically very expensive

The interval complete lattice with “normal form” for the empty set and the supremum

