

# Techniques and Tools for Automated Termination Analysis

Carsten Fuhs

Birkbeck, University of London

COST Action EuroProofNet, WG3 meeting, Feb 2023

Timișoara, Romania

<https://www.dcs.bbk.ac.uk/~carsten/>

- Month 18: Comparison of the approaches used in the international Software Verification competition SV-COMP.
- Month 24: Software prototype for the automated inference of program specifications as logical axioms.
- Month 48: Collection of verification challenges with summary of working recipes for verifying them.
- Month 48: Technique for syntax-semantics interface for program verification with or without type systems.

- **Month 18: Comparison of the approaches used in the international Software Verification competition SV-COMP.**
- Month 24: Software prototype for the automated inference of program specifications as logical axioms.
- Month 48: Collection of verification challenges with summary of working recipes for verifying them.
- Month 48: Technique for syntax-semantics interface for program verification with or without type systems.

- **Month 18: Comparison of the approaches used in the international Software Verification competition SV-COMP.**
- Month 24: Software prototype for the automated inference of program specifications as logical axioms.
- Month 48: Collection of verification challenges with summary of working recipes for verifying them.
- Month 48: Technique for syntax-semantics interface for program verification with or without type systems.

⇒ Some thoughts on **competitions** and approaches for **termination**

# Tool competitions on verification

Compare fully automatic verification tools on a shared benchmark set

# Tool competitions on verification

Compare fully automatic verification tools on a shared benchmark set

- termCOMP (termination, complexity)

[https://termination-portal.org/wiki/Termination\\_Competition](https://termination-portal.org/wiki/Termination_Competition)

# Tool competitions on verification

Compare fully automatic verification tools on a shared benchmark set

- termCOMP (termination, complexity)

[https://termination-portal.org/wiki/Termination\\_Competition](https://termination-portal.org/wiki/Termination_Competition)

- SV-COMP (safety, termination)

<https://sv-comp.sosy-lab.org/>

# Tool competitions on verification

Compare fully automatic verification tools on a shared benchmark set

- termCOMP (termination, complexity)

[https://termination-portal.org/wiki/Termination\\_Competition](https://termination-portal.org/wiki/Termination_Competition)

- SV-COMP (safety, termination)

<https://sv-comp.sosy-lab.org/>

- CoCo (confluence)

<http://project-coco.uibk.ac.at/>



# Tool competitions on verification

Compare fully automatic verification tools on a shared benchmark set

- termCOMP (termination, complexity)  
[https://termination-portal.org/wiki/Termination\\_Competition](https://termination-portal.org/wiki/Termination_Competition)
- SV-COMP (safety, termination)  
<https://sv-comp.sosy-lab.org/>
- CoCo (confluence)  
<http://project-coco.uibk.ac.at/>

Usually several “dimensions” for their categories, e.g.:

- Property to verify/falsify

# Tool competitions on verification

Compare fully automatic verification tools on a shared benchmark set

- termCOMP (termination, complexity)  
[https://termination-portal.org/wiki/Termination\\_Competition](https://termination-portal.org/wiki/Termination_Competition)
- SV-COMP (safety, termination)  
<https://sv-comp.sosy-lab.org/>
- CoCo (confluence)  
<http://project-coco.uibk.ac.at/>

Usually several “dimensions” for their categories, e.g.:

- Property to verify/falsify
- Input language

# Tool competitions on verification

Compare fully automatic verification tools on a shared benchmark set

- termCOMP (termination, complexity)  
[https://termination-portal.org/wiki/Termination\\_Competition](https://termination-portal.org/wiki/Termination_Competition)
- SV-COMP (safety, termination)  
<https://sv-comp.sosy-lab.org/>
- CoCo (confluence)  
<http://project-coco.uibk.ac.at/>

Usually several “dimensions” for their categories, e.g.:

- Property to verify/falsify
- Input language
- Expected output  
(claim with no proof, human-readable proof, machine-checkable proof)

## Program verification: the user's perspective (1/3)

What properties of programs do we want to analyse?

What properties of programs do we want to analyse?

- **Partial Correctness**

- will my program always produce the right result?

# Program verification: the user's perspective (1/3)

What properties of programs do we want to analyse?

- **Partial Correctness**

→ will my program always produce the right result?

- **Assertions by the programmer.**    `assert x > 0;`

→ will this always be true?

What properties of programs do we want to analyse?

- **Partial Correctness**

- will my program always produce the right result?

- **Assertions by the programmer.** `assert x > 0;`

- will this always be true?

- **Memory Safety**

- are my memory accesses always legal?

- `int* x = NULL; *x = 42;`

- undefined behaviour!

- memory safety matters: Heartbleed (OpenSSL attack)

What properties of programs do we want to analyse?

- **Partial Correctness**

- will my program always produce the right result?

- **Assertions by the programmer.** `assert x > 0;`

- will this always be true?

- **Memory Safety**

- are my memory accesses always legal?

- `int* x = NULL; *x = 42;`

- undefined behaviour!

- memory safety matters: Heartbleed (OpenSSL attack)

- ...



# Program verification: the user's perspective (1/3)

What properties of programs do we want to analyse?

- **Partial Correctness**

- will my program always produce the right result?

- **Assertions by the programmer.** `assert x > 0;`

- will this always be true?

- **Memory Safety**

- are my memory accesses always legal?

- `int* x = NULL; *x = 42;`

- undefined behaviour!

- memory safety matters: Heartbleed (OpenSSL attack)

- ...

→ Safety properties, at SV-COMP since 2012, for C and Java programs

- **Equivalence.** Do **two** programs always produce the same result?  
→ correctness of refactoring

## Program verification: the user's perspective (2/3)

- **Equivalence.** Do **two** programs always produce the same result?
  - correctness of refactoring

→ No (?) competition (yet?)

- **Equivalence.** Do **two** programs always produce the same result?  
→ correctness of refactoring

→ No (?) competition (yet?)

- **Confluence.** For languages with non-deterministic rules/commands:  
does **one** program always produce the same result?

*Confluence is a property that establishes the global determinism of a computation despite possible local non-determinism.*

[Hristakiev, *PhD thesis '17*]

→ does the order of applying compiler optimisation rules matter?

## Program verification: the user's perspective (2/3)

- **Equivalence.** Do **two** programs always produce the same result?  
→ correctness of refactoring

→ No (?) competition (yet?)

- **Confluence.** For languages with non-deterministic rules/commands:  
does **one** program always produce the same result?

*Confluence is a property that establishes the global determinism of a computation despite possible local non-determinism.*

[Hristakiev, *PhD thesis '17*]

→ does the order of applying compiler optimisation rules matter?

→ CoCo, since 2012, for term rewrite systems

- **Termination**

→ will my program give an output for all inputs  
in **finitely many steps**?

- **Termination**

- will my program give an output for all inputs  
in **finitely many steps**?

- termCOMP, since 2004, for term rewrite systems; integer transition systems; Prolog, Haskell, Java, C programs

- **Termination**

- will my program give an output for all inputs  
in **finitely many steps**?

- termCOMP, since 2004, for term rewrite systems; integer transition systems; Prolog, Haskell, Java, C programs
- SV-COMP, since 2014, for C programs



- **Termination**

- will my program give an output for all inputs  
in **finitely many steps**?

- termCOMP, since 2004, for term rewrite systems; integer transition systems; Prolog, Haskell, Java, C programs
- SV-COMP, since 2014, for C programs

- **(Quantitative) Resource Use aka Complexity**

- **how many** steps will my program need in the worst case?  
(runtime complexity)
  - **how large** can my data become? (size complexity)

- **Termination**

- will my program give an output for all inputs  
in **finitely many steps**?

- termCOMP, since 2004, for term rewrite systems; integer transition systems; Prolog, Haskell, Java, C programs
- SV-COMP, since 2014, for C programs

- **(Quantitative) Resource Use aka Complexity**

- **how many** steps will my program need in the worst case?  
(runtime complexity)
  - **how large** can my data become? (size complexity)

- termCOMP, since 2008, for term rewrite systems; integer transition systems; C programs

# Program verification: the user's perspective (3/3)

- **Termination**

- will my program give an output for all inputs  
in **finitely many steps**?

- termCOMP, since 2004, for term rewrite systems; integer transition systems; Prolog, Haskell, Java, C programs
- SV-COMP, since 2014, for C programs

- **(Quantitative) Resource Use aka Complexity**

- **how many** steps will my program need in the worst case?  
(runtime complexity)

- **how large** can my data become? (size complexity)

- termCOMP, since 2008, for term rewrite systems; integer transition systems; C programs

**Note:** All these properties are **undecidable**!

# Program verification: the user's perspective (3/3)

- **Termination**

- will my program give an output for all inputs  
in **finitely many steps**?

- termCOMP, since 2004, for term rewrite systems; integer transition systems; Prolog, Haskell, Java, C programs
- SV-COMP, since 2014, for C programs

- **(Quantitative) Resource Use aka Complexity**

- **how many** steps will my program need in the worst case?  
(runtime complexity)

- **how large** can my data become? (size complexity)

- termCOMP, since 2008, for term rewrite systems; integer transition systems; C programs

**Note:** All these properties are **undecidable!**

⇒ tools use automatable **sufficient criteria**

# Input languages: backend languages

Simple, desugared formalisms with clear semantics

Simple, desugared formalisms with clear semantics

- Term rewrite systems (many flavours)

Simple, desugared formalisms with clear semantics

- Term rewrite systems (many flavours)
- Integer transition systems

# Input languages: backend languages

Simple, desugared formalisms with clear semantics

- Term rewrite systems (many flavours)
- Integer transition systems

Benefits and drawbacks:



# Input languages: backend languages

Simple, desugared formalisms with clear semantics

- Term rewrite systems (many flavours)
- Integer transition systems

Benefits and drawbacks:

- Easy(-ish) to agree on semantics

# Input languages: backend languages

Simple, desugared formalisms with clear semantics

- Term rewrite systems (many flavours)
- Integer transition systems

Benefits and drawbacks:

- Easy(-ish) to agree on semantics
- Interesting mainly for researchers (rather than programmers)

# Input languages: backend languages

Simple, desugared formalisms with clear semantics

- Term rewrite systems (many flavours)
- Integer transition systems

Benefits and drawbacks:

- Easy(-ish) to agree on semantics
- Interesting mainly for researchers (rather than programmers)
- Used internally in verification tools for real-world languages

# Input languages: frontend languages

Programming languages used outside of research:

Prolog, Haskell, Java, C, ...

# Input languages: frontend languages

Programming languages used outside of research:

Prolog, Haskell, Java, C, . . .

Benefits:

# Input languages: frontend languages

Programming languages used outside of research:

Prolog, Haskell, Java, C, . . .

Benefits:

- Lots of real-world examples to analyse

# Input languages: frontend languages

Programming languages used outside of research:

Prolog, Haskell, Java, C, . . .

Benefits:

- Lots of real-world examples to analyse
- Tools for these languages useful for non-experts (programmers!)

# Input languages: frontend languages

Programming languages used outside of research:

Prolog, Haskell, Java, C, . . .

Benefits:

- Lots of real-world examples to analyse
- Tools for these languages useful for non-experts (programmers!)

Challenges:



# Input languages: frontend languages

Programming languages used outside of research:

Prolog, Haskell, Java, C, ...

Benefits:

- Lots of real-world examples to analyse
- Tools for these languages useful for non-experts (programmers!)

Challenges:

- Language semantics can be ambiguous; undefined behaviour ( $\rightarrow$  C)

# Input languages: frontend languages

Programming languages used outside of research:

Prolog, Haskell, Java, C, ...

Benefits:

- Lots of real-world examples to analyse
- Tools for these languages useful for non-experts (programmers!)

Challenges:

- Language semantics can be ambiguous; undefined behaviour ( $\rightarrow$  C)
- Tools usually support only language subsets  
(libraries, concurrency, reflection, ...)

# Input languages: frontend languages

Programming languages used outside of research:

Prolog, Haskell, Java, C, ...

Benefits:

- Lots of real-world examples to analyse
- Tools for these languages useful for non-experts (programmers!)

Challenges:

- Language semantics can be ambiguous; undefined behaviour ( $\rightarrow$  C)
- Tools usually support only language subsets  
(libraries, concurrency, reflection, ...)
- Tools may make simplifying assumptions (e.g., treat `int` as  $\mathbb{Z}$ ?)

# Input languages: frontend languages

Programming languages used outside of research:

Prolog, Haskell, Java, C, ...

Benefits:

- Lots of real-world examples to analyse
- Tools for these languages useful for non-experts (programmers!)

Challenges:

- Language semantics can be ambiguous; undefined behaviour ( $\rightarrow$  C)
- Tools usually support only language subsets  
(libraries, concurrency, reflection, ...)
- Tools may make simplifying assumptions (e.g., treat `int` as  $\mathbb{Z}$ ?)
- Different competitions may make different assumptions  
(... which make sense in context)

# Output format

CoCo, SV-COMP, termCOMP:

Encourage/require machine-checkable verification **certificates** as outputs

CoCo, SV-COMP, termCOMP:

Encourage/require machine-checkable verification **certificates** as outputs

Correctness checks:

- termCOMP/CoCo:  
checkers based on formalisations of problems + verification techniques  
in Coq/Isabelle/...

CoCo, SV-COMP, termCOMP:

Encourage/require machine-checkable verification **certificates** as outputs

Correctness checks:

- termCOMP/CoCo:  
checkers based on formalisations of problems + verification techniques  
in Coq/Isabelle/...  
→ trustable verification tool, no proof search

CoCo, SV-COMP, termCOMP:

Encourage/require machine-checkable verification **certificates** as outputs

Correctness checks:

- termCOMP/CoCo:  
checkers based on formalisations of problems + verification techniques  
in Coq/Isabelle/...  
→ trustable verification tool, no proof search  
→ currently for **backend languages** only



CoCo, SV-COMP, termCOMP:

Encourage/require machine-checkable verification **certificates** as outputs

Correctness checks:

- termCOMP/CoCo:
  - checkers based on formalisations of problems + verification techniques in Coq/Isabelle/...
  - trustable verification tool, no proof search
  - currently for **backend languages** only
  - CeTA, talk René Thiemann at WG3 meeting in Valencia, Feb 2022

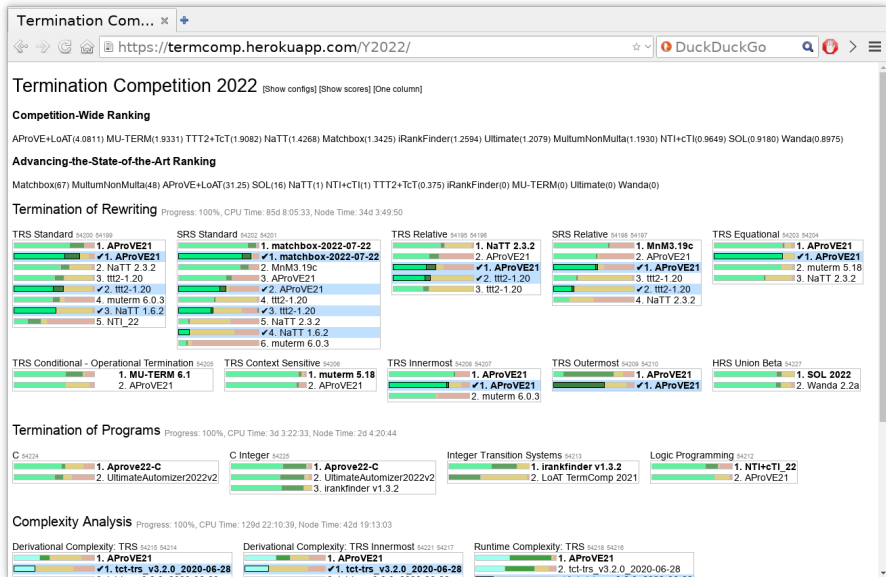
CoCo, SV-COMP, termCOMP:

Encourage/require machine-checkable verification **certificates** as outputs

Correctness checks:

- termCOMP/CoCo:  
checkers based on formalisations of problems + verification techniques in Coq/Isabelle/...
  - trustable verification tool, no proof search
  - currently for **backend languages** only
  - CeTA, talk René Thiemann at WG3 meeting in Valencia, Feb 2022
- SV-COMP: other participating tools, for **frontend languages**

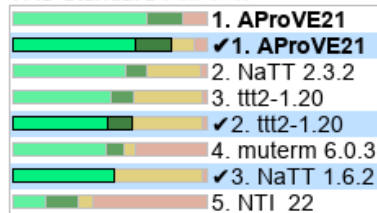
# termCOMP with certification (✓) (1/2)



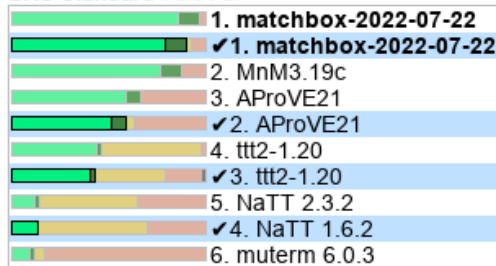
Let's zoom in ...

## Termination of Rewriting Progress: 100%, CPU Time: 85d 8:05:33, Node Time: 34d 3:4

TRS Standard 54200 54199



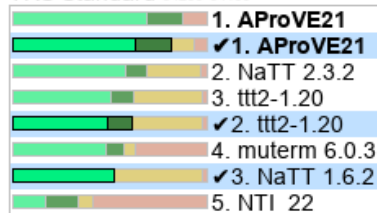
SRS Standard 54202 54201



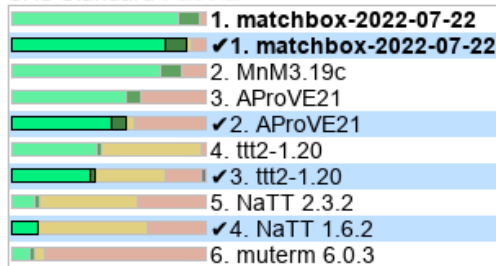
Let's zoom in ...

## Termination of Rewriting Progress: 100%, CPU Time: 85d 8:05:33, Node Time: 34d 3:4

TRS Standard 54200 54199



SRS Standard 54202 54201



⇒ proof certification is competitive!

# Termination analysis, classically

# Termination analysis, classically

## Turing 1949

Finally the checker has to verify that the process comes to an end. Here again he should be assisted by the programmer giving a further definite assertion to be verified. This may take the form of a quantity which is asserted to decrease continually and vanish when the machine stops.

“Finally the checker has to verify that the process comes to an end. [...] This may take the form of a quantity which is asserted to decrease continually and vanish when the machine stops.”

# Termination analysis, classically

## Turing 1949

Finally the checker has to verify that the process comes to an end. Here again he should be assisted by the programmer giving a further definite assertion to be verified. This may take the form of a quantity which is asserted to decrease continually and vanish when the machine stops.

“Finally the checker has to verify that the process comes to an end. [...] This may take the form of a quantity which is asserted to decrease continually and vanish when the machine stops.”

- 1 Find **ranking function**  $f$  (“quantity”)



# Termination analysis, classically

## Turing 1949

Finally the checker has to verify that the process comes to an end. Here again he should be assisted by the programmer giving a further definite assertion to be verified. This may take the form of a quantity which is asserted to decrease continually and vanish when the machine stops.

“Finally the checker has to verify that the process comes to an end. [...] This may take the form of a quantity which is asserted to decrease continually and vanish when the machine stops.”

- 1 Find **ranking function**  $f$  (“quantity”)
- 2 Prove  $f$  to have a **lower bound** (“vanish when the machine stops”)

# Termination analysis, classically

## Turing 1949

Finally the checker has to verify that the process comes to an end. Here again he should be assisted by the programmer giving a further definite assertion to be verified. This may take the form of a quantity which is asserted to decrease continually and vanish when the machine stops.

“Finally the checker has to verify that the process comes to an end. [...] This may take the form of a quantity which is asserted to decrease continually and vanish when the machine stops.”

- 1 Find **ranking function**  $f$  (“quantity”)
- 2 Prove  $f$  to have a **lower bound** (“vanish when the machine stops”)
- 3 Prove that  $f$  **decreases** over time

# Termination analysis, classically

## Turing 1949

Finally the checker has to verify that the process comes to an end. Here again he should be assisted by the programmer giving a further definite assertion to be verified. This may take the form of a quantity which is asserted to decrease continually and vanish when the machine stops.

“Finally the checker has to verify that the process comes to an end. [...] This may take the form of a quantity which is asserted to decrease continually and vanish when the machine stops.”

- 1 Find **ranking function**  $f$  (“quantity”)
- 2 Prove  $f$  to have a **lower bound** (“vanish when the machine stops”)
- 3 Prove that  $f$  **decreases** over time

## Example (Termination can be simple)

```
while x > 0:  
    x = x - 1
```

## Termination analysis, with automated reasoning

**Question:** Does program  $P$  terminate?

# Termination analysis, with automated reasoning

**Question:** Does program  $P$  terminate?

**Approach:** Encode termination proof **template** to logical constraint  $\varphi$ ,  
ask SMT solver

# Termination analysis, with automated reasoning

**Question:** Does program  $P$  terminate?

**Approach:** Encode termination proof **template** to logical constraint  $\varphi$ ,  
ask SMT solver

→ **SMT** = **SAT**isfiability **Modulo Theories**, solve constraints like

$$\varphi = b > 0 \wedge (4ab - 7b^2 > 1 \vee 3a + c \geq b^3)$$

# Termination analysis, with automated reasoning

**Question:** Does program  $P$  terminate?

**Approach:** Encode termination proof **template** to logical constraint  $\varphi$ ,  
ask SMT solver

→ **SMT** = **SAT**isfiability **Modulo Theories**, solve constraints like

$$\varphi = b > 0 \wedge (4ab - 7b^2 > 1 \vee 3a + c \geq b^3)$$

**Answer:**

# Termination analysis, with automated reasoning

**Question:** Does program  $P$  terminate?

**Approach:** Encode termination proof **template** to logical constraint  $\varphi$ ,  
ask SMT solver

→ **SMT** = **SAT**isfiability **Modulo Theories**, solve constraints like

$$\varphi = b > 0 \wedge (4ab - 7b^2 > 1 \vee 3a + c \geq b^3)$$

**Answer:**

- 1  $\varphi$  **satisfiable**, model  $M$  (e.g.,  $a = 3, b = 1, c = 1$ ):  
⇒  $P$  terminating,  $M$  fills in the gaps in the termination proof



# Termination analysis, with automated reasoning

**Question:** Does program  $P$  terminate?

**Approach:** Encode termination proof **template** to logical constraint  $\varphi$ ,  
ask SMT solver

→ **SMT = SAT**isfiability **Modulo Theories**, solve constraints like

$$\varphi = b > 0 \wedge (4ab - 7b^2 > 1 \vee 3a + c \geq b^3)$$

**Answer:**

- 1  $\varphi$  **satisfiable**, model  $M$  (e.g.,  $a = 3, b = 1, c = 1$ ):  
⇒  $P$  terminating,  $M$  fills in the gaps in the termination proof
- 2  $\varphi$  **unsatisfiable**:  
⇒ termination status of  $P$  unknown  
⇒ try a different template (proof technique)

# Termination analysis, with automated reasoning

**Question:** Does program  $P$  terminate?

**Approach:** Encode termination proof **template** to logical constraint  $\varphi$ ,  
ask SMT solver

→ **SMT** = **SAT**isfiability **Modulo Theories**, solve constraints like

$$\varphi = b > 0 \wedge (4ab - 7b^2 > 1 \vee 3a + c \geq b^3)$$

**Answer:**

- 1  $\varphi$  **satisfiable**, model  $M$  (e.g.,  $a = 3, b = 1, c = 1$ ):  
⇒  $P$  terminating,  $M$  fills in the gaps in the termination proof
- 2  $\varphi$  **unsatisfiable**:  
⇒ termination status of  $P$  unknown  
⇒ try a different template (proof technique)

**In practice:**

- Encode only one proof **step** at a time  
→ prove only **part** of the program terminating, get simpler problem

# Termination analysis, with automated reasoning

**Question:** Does program  $P$  terminate?

**Approach:** Encode termination proof **template** to logical constraint  $\varphi$ ,  
ask SMT solver

→ **SMT = SAT**isfiability **Modulo Theories**, solve constraints like

$$\varphi = b > 0 \wedge (4ab - 7b^2 > 1 \vee 3a + c \geq b^3)$$

**Answer:**

- 1  $\varphi$  **satisfiable**, model  $M$  (e.g.,  $a = 3, b = 1, c = 1$ ):  
⇒  $P$  terminating,  $M$  fills in the gaps in the termination proof
- 2  $\varphi$  **unsatisfiable**:  
⇒ termination status of  $P$  unknown  
⇒ try a different template (proof technique)

**In practice:**

- Encode only one proof **step** at a time  
→ prove only **part** of the program terminating, get simpler problem  
→ combine techniques

# Termination analysis, with automated reasoning

**Question:** Does program  $P$  terminate?

**Approach:** Encode termination proof **template** to logical constraint  $\varphi$ ,  
ask SMT solver

→ **SMT** = **SAT**isfiability **Modulo Theories**, solve constraints like

$$\varphi = b > 0 \wedge (4ab - 7b^2 > 1 \vee 3a + c \geq b^3)$$

**Answer:**

- 1  $\varphi$  **satisfiable**, model  $M$  (e.g.,  $a = 3, b = 1, c = 1$ ):  
⇒  $P$  terminating,  $M$  fills in the gaps in the termination proof
- 2  $\varphi$  **unsatisfiable**:  
⇒ termination status of  $P$  unknown  
⇒ try a different template (proof technique)

**In practice:**

- Encode only one proof **step** at a time  
→ prove only **part** of the program terminating, get simpler problem  
→ combine techniques
- **Repeat** until the whole program is proved terminating

Papers on termination of imperative programs often about **integers** as data

Papers on termination of imperative programs often about **integers** as data

### Example (Imperative Program)

```
if ( $x \geq 0$ )  
  while ( $x \neq 0$ )  
     $x = x - 1$ ;
```

Does this program terminate?  
( $x$  ranges over  $\mathbb{Z}$ )

Papers on termination of imperative programs often about **integers** as data

### Example (Imperative Program)

```
 $l_0$ :   if ( $x \geq 0$ )  
 $l_1$ :       while ( $x \neq 0$ )  
 $l_2$ :            $x = x - 1$ ;
```

Does this program terminate?  
( $x$  ranges over  $\mathbb{Z}$ )

### Example (Equivalent Translation to an Integer Transition System, cf. [McCarthy, CACM '60])

$l_0(x)$	$\rightarrow$	$l_1(x)$	$[x \geq 0]$
$l_0(x)$	$\rightarrow$	$l_3(x)$	$[x < 0]$
$l_1(x)$	$\rightarrow$	$l_2(x)$	$[x \neq 0]$
$l_2(x)$	$\rightarrow$	$l_1(x - 1)$	
$l_1(x)$	$\rightarrow$	$l_3(x)$	$[x = 0]$

Papers on termination of imperative programs often about **integers** as data

### Example (Imperative Program)

```
 $l_0$ :   if ( $x \geq 0$ )  
 $l_1$ :     while ( $x \neq 0$ )  
 $l_2$ :        $x = x - 1$ ;
```

Does this program terminate?  
( $x$  ranges over  $\mathbb{Z}$ )

### Example (Equivalent Translation to an Integer Transition System, cf. [McCarthy, CACM '60])

```
 $l_0(x) \rightarrow l_1(x) \quad [x \geq 0]$   
 $l_0(x) \rightarrow l_3(x) \quad [x < 0]$   
 $l_1(x) \rightarrow l_2(x) \quad [x \neq 0]$   
 $l_2(x) \rightarrow l_1(x - 1)$   
 $l_1(x) \rightarrow l_3(x) \quad [x = 0]$ 
```

And this one?



Papers on termination of imperative programs often about **integers** as data

### Example (Imperative Program)

```
 $l_0$ :   if ( $x \geq 0$ )  
 $l_1$ :       while ( $x \neq 0$ )  
 $l_2$ :            $x = x - 1$ ;
```

Does this program terminate?  
( $x$  ranges over  $\mathbb{Z}$ )

### Example (Equivalent Translation to an Integer Transition System, cf. [McCarthy, CACM '60])

```
 $l_0(x) \rightarrow l_1(x) \quad [x \geq 0]$   
 $l_0(x) \rightarrow l_3(x) \quad [x < 0]$   
 $l_1(x) \rightarrow l_2(x) \quad [x \neq 0]$   
 $l_2(x) \rightarrow l_1(x - 1)$   
 $l_1(x) \rightarrow l_3(x) \quad [x = 0]$ 
```

And this one?

Oh no!  $l_1(-1) \rightarrow l_2(-1) \rightarrow l_1(-2) \rightarrow l_2(-2) \rightarrow l_1(-3) \rightarrow \dots$

Papers on termination of imperative programs often about **integers** as data

### Example (Imperative Program)

```
 $l_0$ :   if ( $x \geq 0$ )  
 $l_1$ :     while ( $x \neq 0$ )  
 $l_2$ :        $x = x - 1$ ;
```

Does this program terminate?  
( $x$  ranges over  $\mathbb{Z}$ )

### Example (Equivalent Translation to an Integer Transition System, cf. [McCarthy, CACM '60])

```
 $l_0(x) \rightarrow l_1(x) \quad [x \geq 0]$   
 $l_0(x) \rightarrow l_3(x) \quad [x < 0]$   
 $l_1(x) \rightarrow l_2(x) \quad [x \neq 0]$   
 $l_2(x) \rightarrow l_1(x - 1)$   
 $l_1(x) \rightarrow l_3(x) \quad [x = 0]$ 
```

And this one?

Oh no!  $l_1(-1) \rightarrow l_2(-1) \rightarrow l_1(-2) \rightarrow l_2(-2) \rightarrow l_1(-3) \rightarrow \dots$

$\Rightarrow$  **Restrict initial states** to  $l_0(z)$  for  $z \in \mathbb{Z}$

Papers on termination of imperative programs often about **integers** as data

### Example (Imperative Program)

```
 $l_0$ :   if ( $x \geq 0$ )  
 $l_1$ :     while ( $x \neq 0$ )  
 $l_2$ :        $x = x - 1$ ;
```

Does this program terminate?  
( $x$  ranges over  $\mathbb{Z}$ )

### Example (Equivalent Translation to an Integer Transition System, cf. [McCarthy, CACM '60])

```
 $l_0(x) \rightarrow l_1(x) \quad [x \geq 0]$   
 $l_0(x) \rightarrow l_3(x) \quad [x < 0]$   
 $l_1(x) \rightarrow l_2(x) \quad [x \neq 0 \wedge x \geq 0]$   
 $l_2(x) \rightarrow l_1(x - 1) \quad [x \geq 0]$   
 $l_1(x) \rightarrow l_3(x) \quad [x = 0 \wedge x \geq 0]$ 
```

And this one?

Oh no!  $l_1(-1) \rightarrow l_2(-1) \rightarrow l_1(-2) \rightarrow l_2(-2) \rightarrow l_1(-3) \rightarrow \dots$

$\Rightarrow$  **Restrict initial states** to  $l_0(z)$  for  $z \in \mathbb{Z}$

$\Rightarrow$  Find **invariant**  $x \geq 0$  at  $l_1, l_2$  (how?)

# Proving termination with invariants

## Example (Transition system with invariants)

$$\begin{array}{lll} \ell_0(x) & \rightarrow & \ell_1(x) \quad [x \geq 0] \\ \ell_1(x) & \rightarrow & \ell_2(x) \quad [x \neq 0 \wedge x \geq 0] \\ \ell_2(x) & \rightarrow & \ell_1(x - 1) \quad [x \geq 0] \\ \ell_1(x) & \rightarrow & \ell_3(x) \quad [x = 0 \wedge x \geq 0] \end{array}$$

Prove termination by ranking function  $[\cdot]$  with  $[\ell_0](x) = [\ell_1](x) = \dots = x$

# Proving termination with invariants

## Example (Transition system with invariants)

$l_0(x)$	$\rightsquigarrow$	$l_1(x)$	$[x \geq 0]$
$l_1(x)$	$\rightsquigarrow$	$l_2(x)$	$[x \neq 0 \wedge x \geq 0]$
$l_2(x)$	$\rightsquigarrow$	$l_1(x - 1)$	$[x \geq 0]$
$l_1(x)$	$\rightsquigarrow$	$l_3(x)$	$[x = 0 \wedge x \geq 0]$

Prove termination by ranking function  $[\cdot]$  with  $[l_0](x) = [l_1](x) = \dots = x$

# Proving termination with invariants

## Example (Transition system with invariants)

$\ell_0(x)$	$\rightsquigarrow$	$\ell_1(x)$	$[x \geq 0]$
$\ell_1(x)$	$\rightsquigarrow$	$\ell_2(x)$	$[x \neq 0 \wedge x \geq 0]$
$\ell_2(x)$	$\rightsquigarrow$	$\ell_1(x - 1)$	$[x \geq 0]$
$\ell_1(x)$	$\rightsquigarrow$	$\ell_3(x)$	$[x = 0 \wedge x \geq 0]$

Prove termination by ranking function  $[\cdot]$  with  $[\ell_0](x) = [\ell_1](x) = \dots = x$

Automate search using **parametric** ranking function:

$$[\ell_0](x) = a_0 + b_0 \cdot x, \quad [\ell_1](x) = a_1 + b_1 \cdot x, \quad \dots$$

# Proving termination with invariants

## Example (Transition system with invariants)

$\ell_0(x)$	$\succcurlyeq$	$\ell_1(x)$	$[x \geq 0]$
$\ell_1(x)$	$\succcurlyeq$	$\ell_2(x)$	$[x \neq 0 \wedge x \geq 0]$
$\ell_2(x)$	$\succ$	$\ell_1(x - 1)$	$[x \geq 0]$
$\ell_1(x)$	$\succcurlyeq$	$\ell_3(x)$	$[x = 0 \wedge x \geq 0]$

Prove termination by ranking function  $[\cdot]$  with  $[\ell_0](x) = [\ell_1](x) = \dots = x$

Automate search using **parametric** ranking function:

$$[\ell_0](x) = a_0 + b_0 \cdot x, \quad [\ell_1](x) = a_1 + b_1 \cdot x, \quad \dots$$

Constraints here:

$$\begin{aligned} x \geq 0 &\Rightarrow a_2 + b_2 \cdot x > a_1 + b_1 \cdot (x - 1) && \text{"decrease ..."} \\ x \geq 0 &\Rightarrow a_2 + b_2 \cdot x \geq 0 && \text{"... against a bound"} \end{aligned}$$

# Proving termination with invariants

## Example (Transition system with invariants)

$\ell_0(x)$	$\succcurlyeq$	$\ell_1(x)$	$[x \geq 0]$
$\ell_1(x)$	$\succcurlyeq$	$\ell_2(x)$	$[x \neq 0 \wedge x \geq 0]$
$\ell_2(x)$	$\succ$	$\ell_1(x - 1)$	$[x \geq 0]$
$\ell_1(x)$	$\succcurlyeq$	$\ell_3(x)$	$[x = 0 \wedge x \geq 0]$

Prove termination by ranking function  $[\cdot]$  with  $[\ell_0](x) = [\ell_1](x) = \dots = x$

Automate search using **parametric** ranking function:

$$[\ell_0](x) = a_0 + b_0 \cdot x, \quad [\ell_1](x) = a_1 + b_1 \cdot x, \quad \dots$$

Constraints here:

$$\begin{aligned} x \geq 0 &\Rightarrow a_2 + b_2 \cdot x > a_1 + b_1 \cdot (x - 1) && \text{"decrease ..."} \\ x \geq 0 &\Rightarrow a_2 + b_2 \cdot x \geq 0 && \text{"... against a bound"} \end{aligned}$$

Use Farkas' Lemma to eliminate  $\forall x$ , solver for **linear** constraints gives model for  $a_i, b_i$ .



# Proving termination with invariants

## Example (Transition system with invariants)

$\ell_0(x)$	$\rightsquigarrow$	$\ell_1(x)$	$[x \geq 0]$
$\ell_1(x)$	$\rightsquigarrow$	$\ell_2(x)$	$[x \neq 0 \wedge x \geq 0]$
$\ell_2(x)$	$\gamma$	$\ell_1(x - 1)$	$[x \geq 0]$
$\ell_1(x)$	$\rightsquigarrow$	$\ell_3(x)$	$[x = 0 \wedge x \geq 0]$

Prove termination by ranking function  $[\cdot]$  with  $[\ell_0](x) = [\ell_1](x) = \dots = x$

Automate search using **parametric** ranking function:

$$[\ell_0](x) = a_0 + b_0 \cdot x, \quad [\ell_1](x) = a_1 + b_1 \cdot x, \quad \dots$$

Constraints here:

$$\begin{aligned} x \geq 0 &\Rightarrow a_2 + b_2 \cdot x > a_1 + b_1 \cdot (x - 1) && \text{"decrease ..."} \\ x \geq 0 &\Rightarrow a_2 + b_2 \cdot x \geq 0 && \text{"... against a bound"} \end{aligned}$$

Use Farkas' Lemma to eliminate  $\forall x$ , solver for **linear** constraints gives model for  $a_i, b_i$ .

More: [Podelski, Rybalchenko, *VMCAI '04*, Alias et al, *SAS '10*]

# Proving termination with invariants

## Example (Transition system with invariants)

$$\begin{array}{lll} \ell_0(x) & \rightarrow & \ell_1(x) & [x \geq 0] \\ \ell_1(x) & \rightarrow & \ell_2(x) & [x \neq 0 \wedge x \geq 0] \\ \ell_1(x) & \rightarrow & \ell_3(x) & [x = 0 \wedge x \geq 0] \end{array}$$

Prove termination by ranking function  $[\cdot]$  with  $[\ell_0](x) = [\ell_1](x) = \dots = x$

Automate search using **parametric** ranking function:

$$[\ell_0](x) = a_0 + b_0 \cdot x, \quad [\ell_1](x) = a_1 + b_1 \cdot x, \quad \dots$$

**Constraints here:**

$$\begin{array}{ll} x \geq 0 & \Rightarrow \quad a_2 + b_2 \cdot x > a_1 + b_1 \cdot (x - 1) \quad \text{“decrease ...”} \\ x \geq 0 & \Rightarrow \quad a_2 + b_2 \cdot x \geq 0 \quad \text{“... against a bound”} \end{array}$$

Use Farkas' Lemma to eliminate  $\forall x$ , solver for **linear** constraints gives model for  $a_i, b_i$ .

More: [Podelski, Rybalchenko, *VMCAI '04*, Alias et al, *SAS '10*]

# Searching for invariants using SMT

Termination prover for programs needs invariants ( $\rightarrow$  safety!)

# Searching for invariants using SMT

Termination prover for programs needs invariants ( $\rightarrow$  safety!)

- Statically before the translation

[Otto et al, *RTA '10*; Ströder et al, *JAR '17*, ...]

$\rightarrow$  abstract interpretation [Cousot, Cousot, *POPL '77*]

# Searching for invariants using SMT

Termination prover for programs needs invariants ( $\rightarrow$  safety!)

- Statically before the translation  
[Otto et al, *RTA '10*; Ströder et al, *JAR '17*, ...]  
 $\rightarrow$  abstract interpretation [Cousot, Cousot, *POPL '77*]
- By counterexample-based reasoning + safety prover: **Terminator**  
[Cook, Podelski, Rybalchenko, *CAV '06*, *PLDI '06*]  
 $\rightarrow$  prove termination of single program **runs**  
 $\rightarrow$  termination argument often generalises

# Searching for invariants using SMT

Termination prover for programs needs invariants ( $\rightarrow$  safety!)

- Statically before the translation  
[Otto et al, *RTA '10*; Ströder et al, *JAR '17*, ...]  
 $\rightarrow$  abstract interpretation [Cousot, Cousot, *POPL '77*]
- By counterexample-based reasoning + safety prover: **Terminator**  
[Cook, Podelski, Rybalchenko, *CAV '06*, *PLDI '06*]  
 $\rightarrow$  prove termination of single program **runs**  
 $\rightarrow$  termination argument often generalises
- ... also cooperating with removal of terminating rules: **T2**  
[Brockschmidt, Cook, Fuhs, *CAV '13*; Brockschmidt et al, *TACAS '16*]

# Searching for invariants using SMT

Termination prover for programs needs invariants ( $\rightarrow$  safety!)

- Statically before the translation  
[Otto et al, *RTA '10*; Ströder et al, *JAR '17*, ...]  
 $\rightarrow$  abstract interpretation [Cousot, Cousot, *POPL '77*]
- By counterexample-based reasoning + safety prover: **Terminator**  
[Cook, Podelski, Rybalchenko, *CAV '06*, *PLDI '06*]  
 $\rightarrow$  prove termination of single program **runs**  
 $\rightarrow$  termination argument often generalises
- ... also cooperating with removal of terminating rules: **T2**  
[Brockschmidt, Cook, Fuhs, *CAV '13*; Brockschmidt et al, *TACAS '16*]
- Using Max-SMT  
[Larraz, Oliveras, Rodríguez-Carbonell, Rubio, *FMCAD '13*]

# Searching for invariants using SMT

Termination prover for programs needs invariants ( $\rightarrow$  safety!)

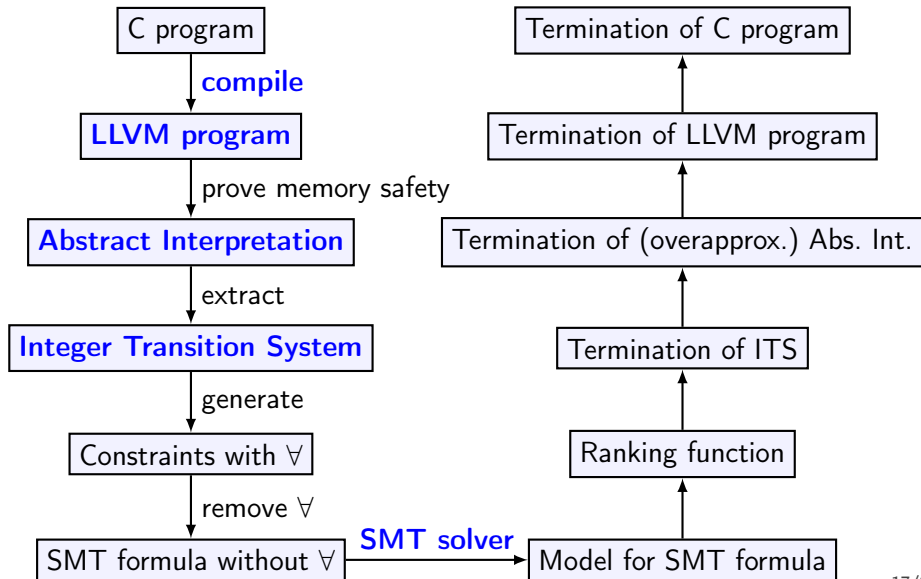
- Statically before the translation  
[Otto et al, *RTA '10*; Ströder et al, *JAR '17*, ...]  
 $\rightarrow$  abstract interpretation [Cousot, Cousot, *POPL '77*]
- By counterexample-based reasoning + safety prover: **Terminator**  
[Cook, Podelski, Rybalchenko, *CAV '06*, *PLDI '06*]  
 $\rightarrow$  prove termination of single program **runs**  
 $\rightarrow$  termination argument often generalises
- ... also cooperating with removal of terminating rules: **T2**  
[Brockschmidt, Cook, Fuhs, *CAV '13*; Brockschmidt et al, *TACAS '16*]
- Using Max-SMT  
[Larraz, Oliveras, Rodríguez-Carbonell, Rubio, *FMCAD '13*]

Nowadays all SMT-based!



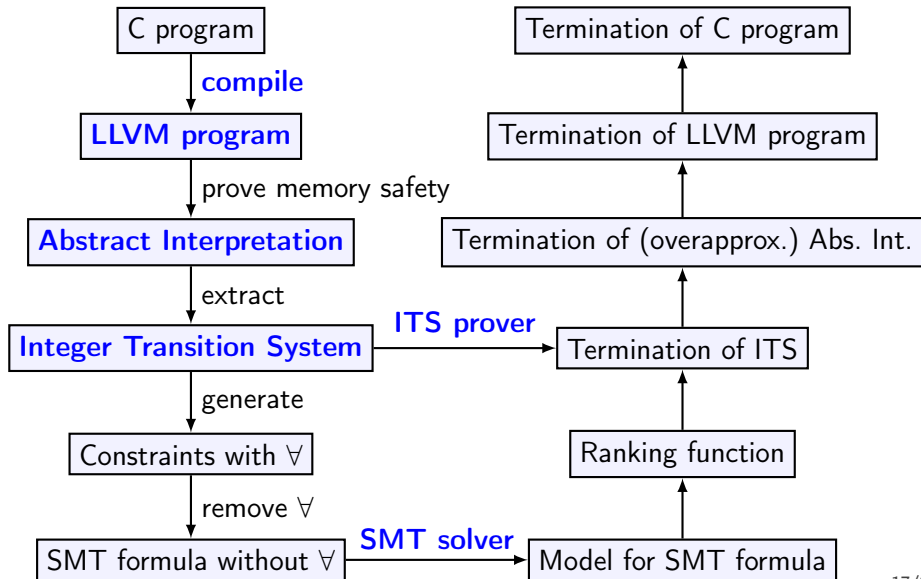
# WG3: what is interesting for our tool inventory?

Example: AProVE's termination analysis for C **in detail**



# WG3: what is interesting for our tool inventory?

Example: AProVE's termination analysis for C **in detail**



Tool inventory of verification tools

- What inputs are supported?

Tool inventory of verification tools

- What inputs are supported?
- What properties can be verified?

## Tool inventory of verification tools

- What inputs are supported?
- What properties can be verified?
- What are the tool's main techniques for the supported **(input, property)** pairs?

## Tool inventory of verification tools

- What inputs are supported?
- What properties can be verified?
- What are the tool's main techniques for the supported **(input, property)** pairs?
- What external tools are used? ( $\rightarrow$  compilers, SMT solvers, ...)

## Tool inventory of verification tools

- What inputs are supported?
- What properties can be verified?
- What are the tool's main techniques for the supported **(input, property)** pairs?
- What external tools are used? ( $\rightarrow$  compilers, SMT solvers, ...)
- What is the tool's URL?

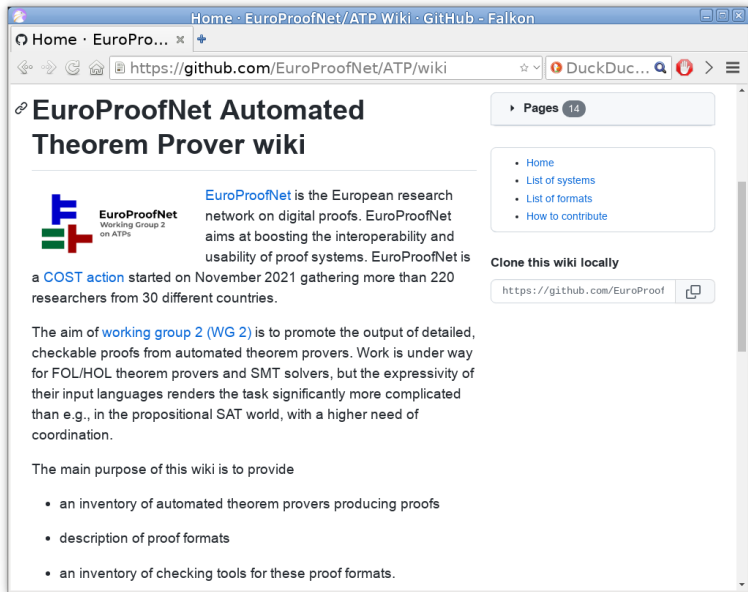
## Tool inventory of verification tools

- What inputs are supported?
- What properties can be verified?
- What are the tool's main techniques for the supported **(input, property)** pairs?
- What external tools are used? ( $\rightarrow$  compilers, SMT solvers, ...)
- What is the tool's URL?
- What is the “canonical reference” to a system description?




# Inspiration: WG2's inventory of ATPs (1/3)

Inspiration: <https://github.com/EuroProofNet/ATP/wiki>



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the GitHub wiki page for EuroProofNet. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://github.com/EuroProofNet/ATP/wiki>. The page title is "EuroProofNet Automated Theorem Prover wiki". On the right side, there is a "Pages" menu with 14 items, including "Home", "List of systems", "List of formats", and "How to contribute". Below the menu, there is a "Clone this wiki locally" button with the URL <https://github.com/EuroProof> and a copy icon.

**EuroProofNet Automated Theorem Prover wiki**

 **EuroProofNet**  
Working Group 2  
on ATPs

**EuroProofNet** is the European research network on digital proofs. EuroProofNet aims at boosting the interoperability and usability of proof systems. EuroProofNet is a **COST action** started on November 2021 gathering more than 220 researchers from 30 different countries.

The aim of **working group 2 (WG 2)** is to promote the output of detailed, checkable proofs from automated theorem provers. Work is under way for FOL/HOL theorem provers and SMT solvers, but the expressivity of their input languages renders the task significantly more complicated than e.g., in the propositional SAT world, with a higher need of coordination.

The main purpose of this wiki is to provide

- an inventory of automated theorem provers producing proofs
- description of proof formats
- an inventory of checking tools for these proof formats.

# Inspiration: WG2's inventory of ATPs (2/3)

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the GitHub Wiki page for the repository 'EuroProofNet / ATP'. The page title is 'List of formats'. Below the title, it indicates that Pascal Fontaine edited this page on Jul 10, 2022, with 3 revisions. The main content area features a section header 'List of formats' with a link icon. To the right of this section, there is a 'Pages' dropdown menu showing 14 pages. Below the section header, a paragraph explains that the following table contains all input formats and proof formats currently curated by the EuroProofNet ATP inventory, and asks users to click on the format name for its detailed profile. A table with five columns is provided: 'Name', 'Input/Output?', 'Web site', 'Logic(s)', and an unlabeled column. The table lists three entries: 'Alethe' (Output, FOL/SMT, unde deve), 'SMT-LIB' (Input, FOL/SMT/HOL, stabl), and 'TPTP' (Input+Output, CNF/FOL/HOL, stabl). A fourth entry, 'Zipperoosition', is partially visible at the bottom. To the right of the table, there is a 'Clone this wiki locally' section with a text input field containing the URL 'https://github.com/EuroProof' and a copy icon.

Sign up

EuroProofNet / ATP Public

Notifications Fork 1 Star 2

Code Issues Pull requests Actions Wiki Security Insights

## List of formats

Pascal Fontaine edited this page Jul 10, 2022 · 3 revisions

### List of formats

Pages 14

- Home
- List of systems
- List of formats
- How to contribute

The following table contains all input formats and proof formats that are currently curated by the EuroProofNet ATP inventory. Please click on the format name for its detailed profile.

Name	Input/Output?	Web site	Logic(s)	
<a href="#">Alethe</a>	Output	<a href="#">[link]</a>	FOL/SMT	unde deve
<a href="#">SMT-LIB</a>	Input	<a href="#">[link]</a>	FOL/SMT/HOL	stabl
<a href="#">TPTP</a>	Input+Output	<a href="#">[link]</a>	CNF/FOL/HOL	stabl
<a href="#">Zipperoosition</a>				

Clone this wiki locally

<https://github.com/EuroProof>

# Inspiration: WG2's inventory of ATPs (3/3)

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the GitHub Wiki page for 'List of systems' in the 'EuroProofNet / ATP' repository. The page header includes navigation links for Code, Issues, Pull requests, Actions, Wiki (selected), Security, and Insights. The main content area features a title 'List of systems' with a note that Julien Narboux edited it on Dec 13, 2022. Below the title is a section for 'List of systems' with a 'Pages' sidebar showing 14 pages, including Home, List of systems, List of formats, and How to contribute. A paragraph explains that the following table contains all systems known to the inventory, with instructions to click on prover names for profiles or to contribute. Below this is a section for 'Maintained systems' which contains a table with columns for Name, Web site, Format(s), and Status. The table lists five systems: agsyHOL, Alt-Ergo, AProVE, Beagle, and Bitwuzla, all of which are maintained. To the right of the table is a 'Clone this wiki locally' button with the URL https://github.com/EuroProofNet/ATP/wiki/List-of-systems.

## List of systems

Julien Narboux edited this page Dec 13, 2022 · 12 revisions

### List of systems

The following table contains all systems that are known to the EuroProofNet ATP inventory. Please click on the prover name for its detailed profile (if available) or [contribute it](#).

### Maintained systems

Name	Web site	Format(s)	Status
<a href="#">agsyHOL</a>	<a href="#">[link]</a>	TPTP	maintained
<a href="#">Alt-Ergo</a>	<a href="#">[link]</a>	SMT-LIB, TPTP	maintained
<a href="#">AProVE</a>	<a href="#">[link]</a>	SMT-LIB	maintained
<a href="#">Beagle</a>	<a href="#">[link]</a>	TPTP	maintained
<a href="#">Bitwuzla</a>	<a href="#">[link]</a>	SMT-LIB	maintained

Clone this wiki locally

<https://github.com/EuroProofNet/ATP/wiki/List-of-systems>

# Conclusion: towards the first deliverable

## Tool inventory of verification tools

- What inputs are supported?
- What properties can be verified?
- What are the tool's main techniques for the supported **(input, property)** pairs?
- What external tools are used? ( $\rightarrow$  compilers, SMT solvers, ...)
- What is the tool's URL?
- What is the “canonical reference” to a system description?