

Learning Graph-based Heuristics for Pointer Analysis without Handcrafting Application-Specific Features

Minseok Jeon, Myungho Lee, and Hakjoo Oh



OOPSLA 2020

Importance of Pointer Analysis

• Pointer analysis is a key component of various software engineering tools

Automatic Program Repair Tools

"we first perform pointer analysis on the whole program"
"Pointer analyses of different sensitivities can be used to increase the precision of the analysis or to improve the analysis speed."

-Gao et al. [ICSE 15]

"Another limitation comes from the pointer analysis....
context-insensitive may information is not precise enough..."
-Lee et al. [FSE 18]

Symbolic Execution Tool

"In this paper, we propose a novel approach that uses pointer alias analysis to group memory objects ..."

-Kapus and Cadar. [FSE 19]

Bug Finder

"To find memory leaks statically, ..., its underlying pointer analysis must also be scalable and accurate"

-Sui et al. [TSE 14]

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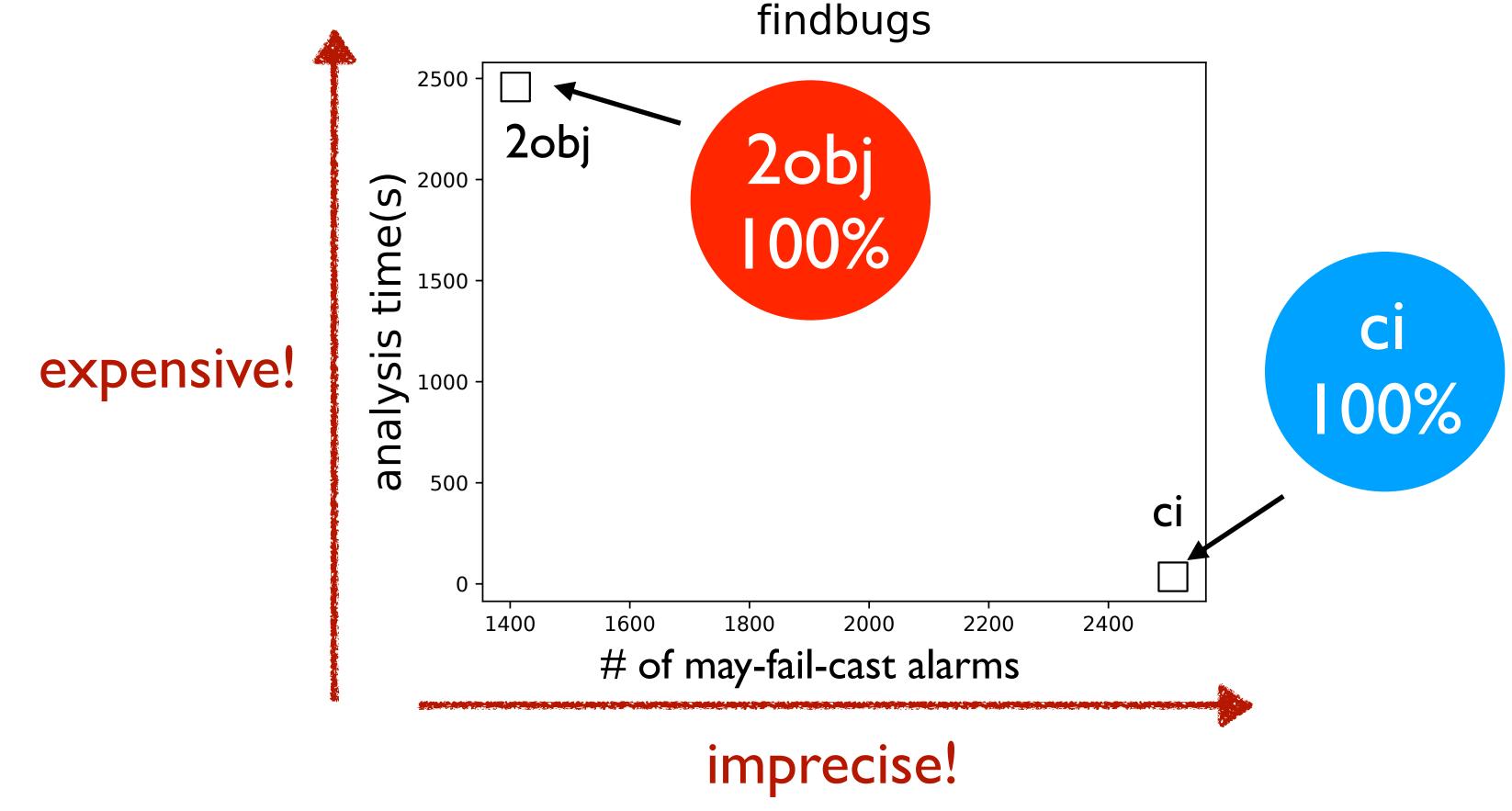
Analysis Heuristics in Pointer Analysis

• Cost-effective pointer analyzer contains various analysis heuristics

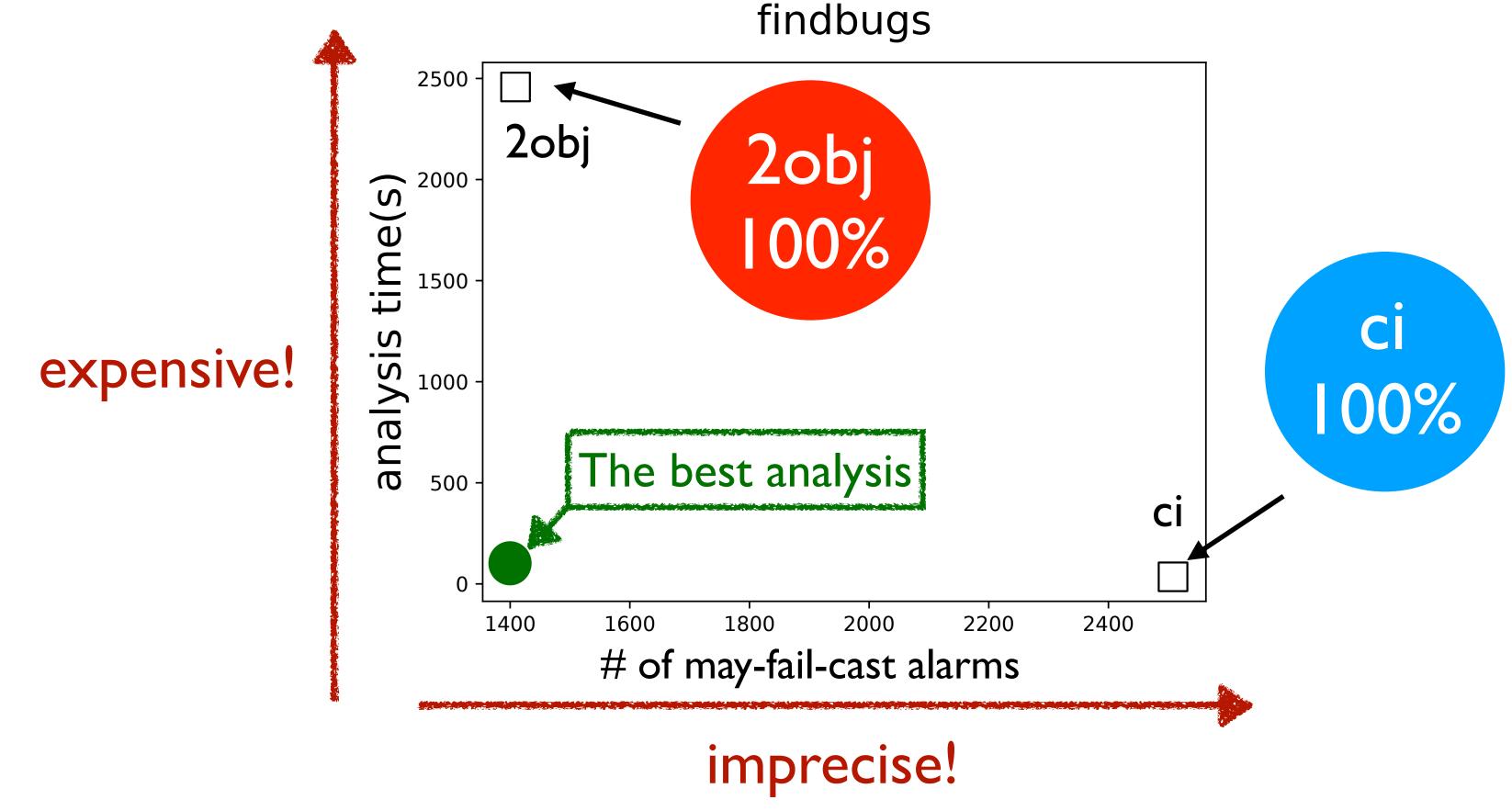


- Context sensitivity heuristics (which method calls should be analyzed precisely?)
- Heap abstraction heuristics (which objects should be analyzed precisely?)
- Context tunneling heuristics (which context elements should be maintained?)

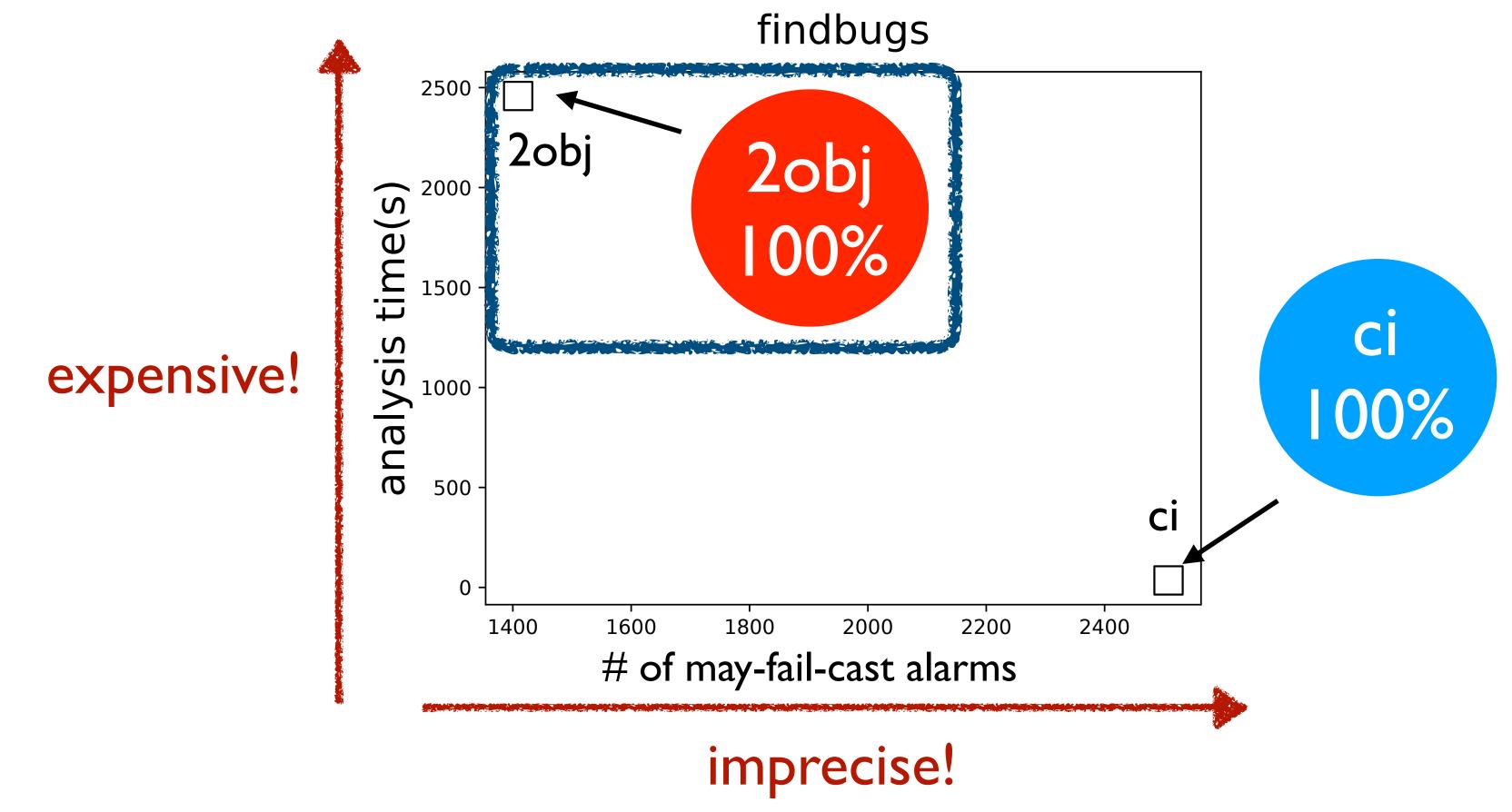
- Full 2-object-sensitivity (2obj) is precise but too expensive
- Context insensitive analysis (ci) is cheap but imprecise



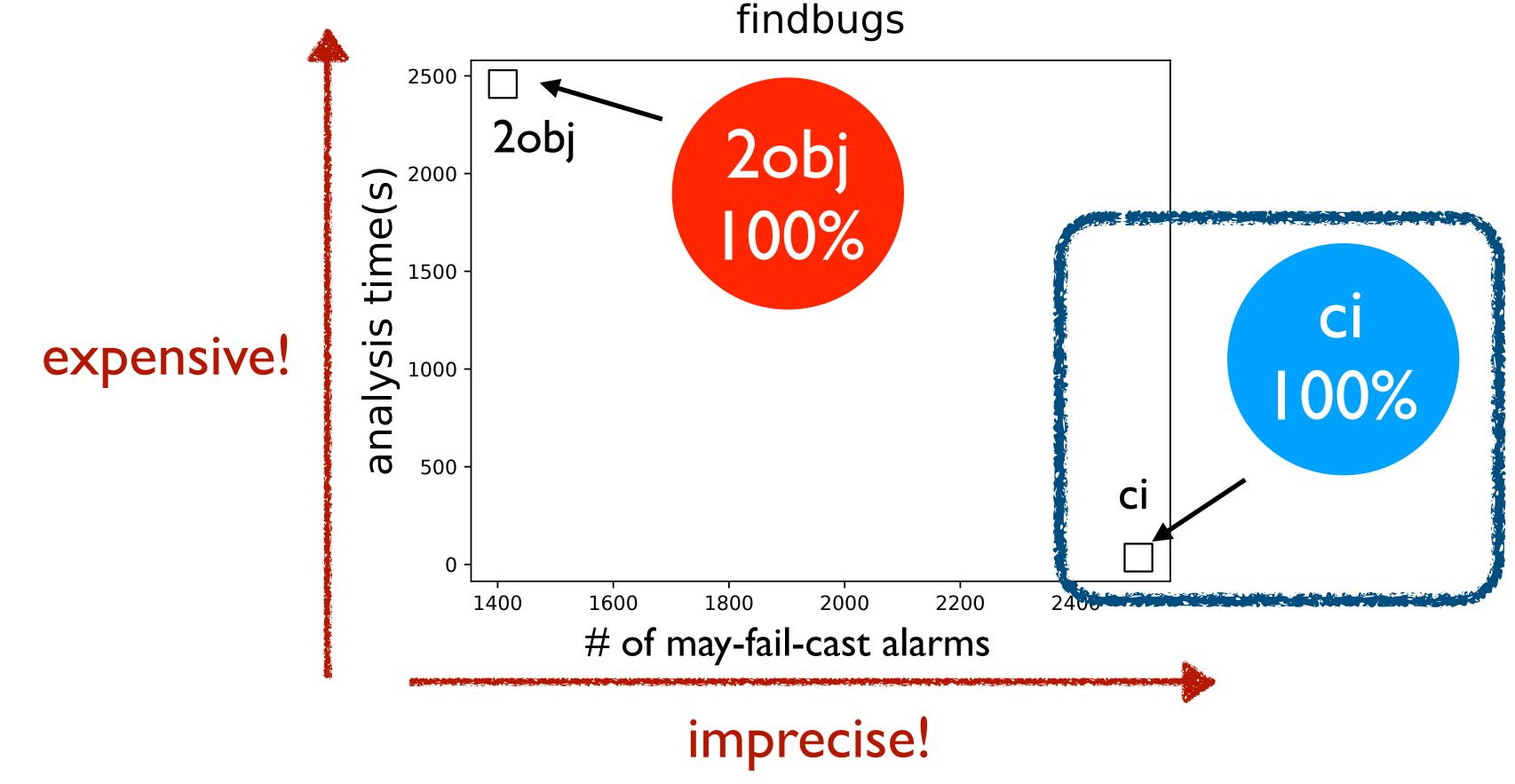
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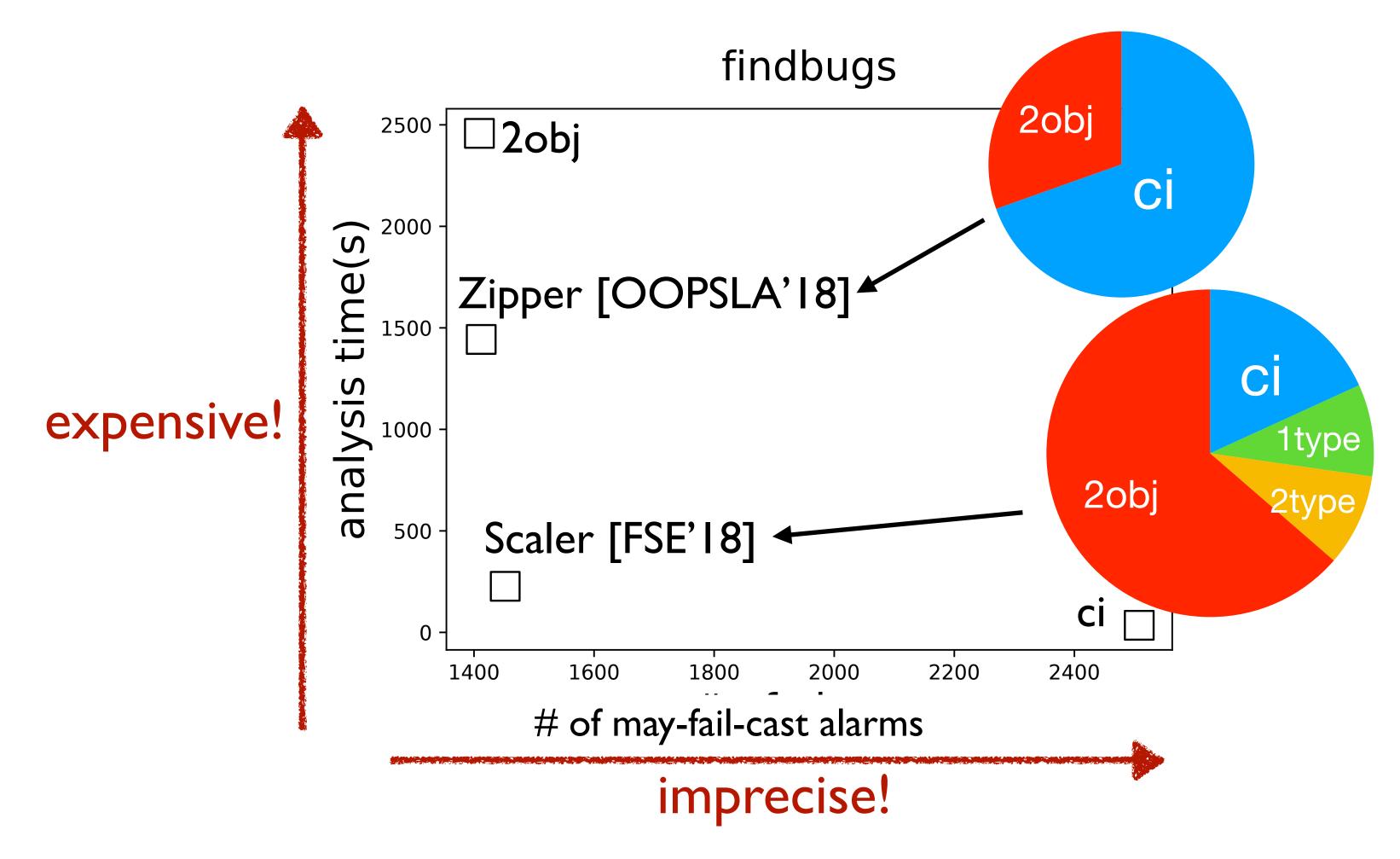
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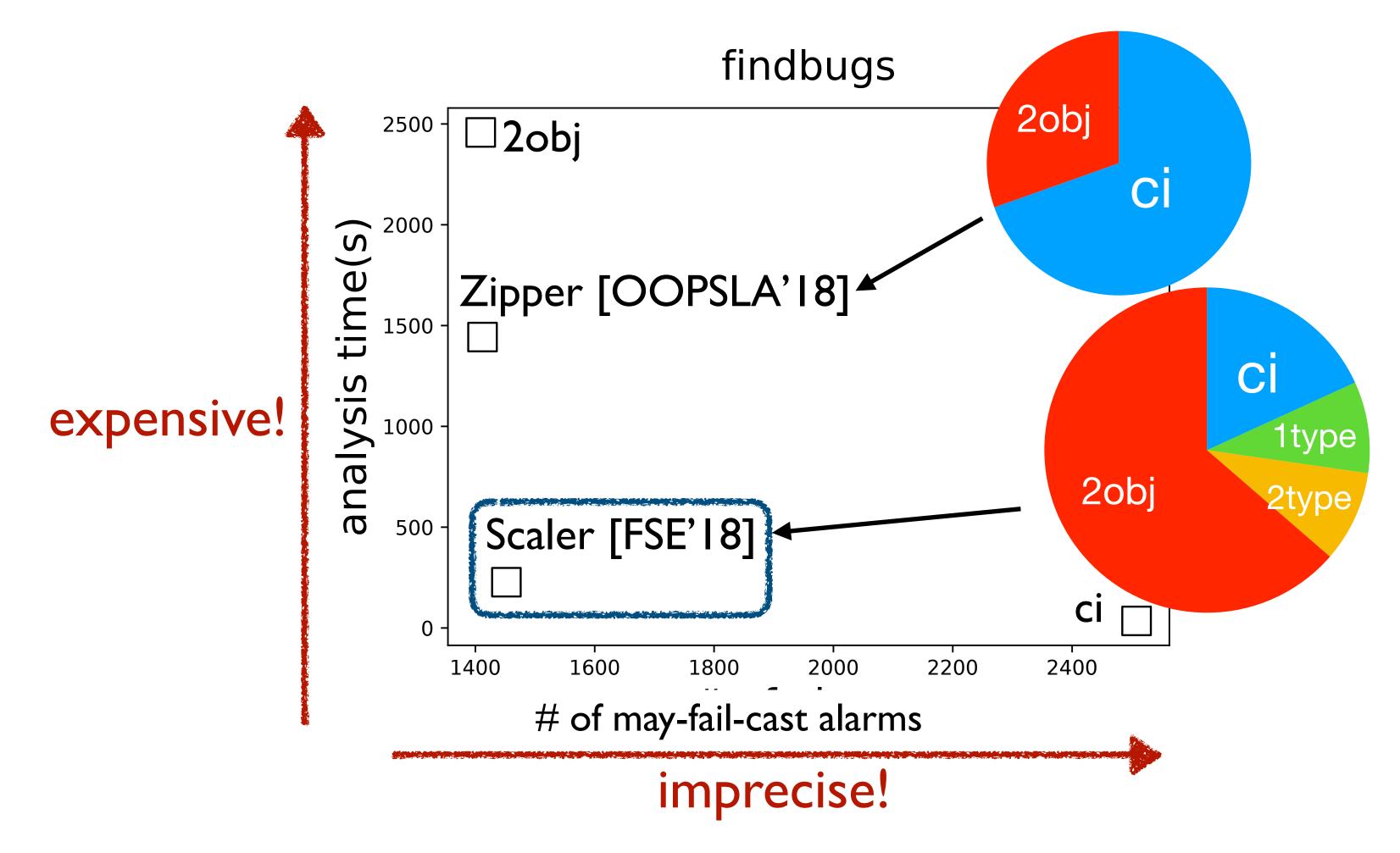
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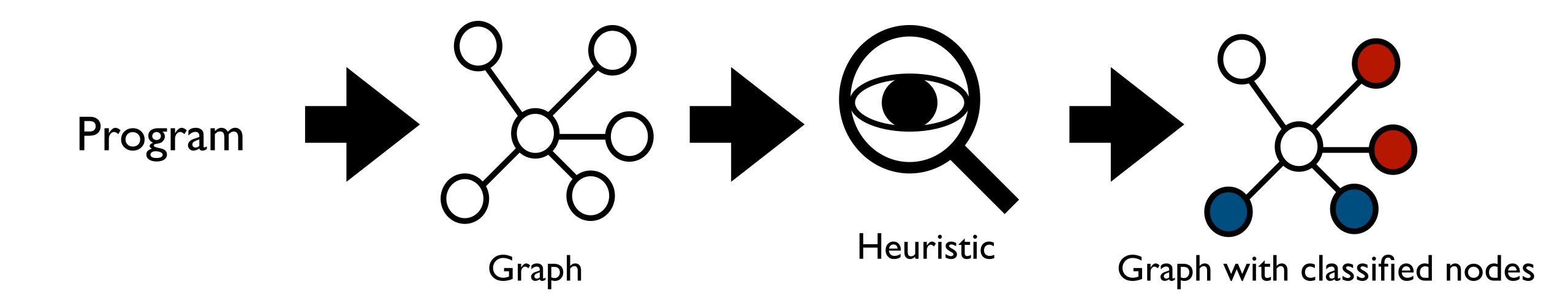
Context sensitivity heuristics assign different context for each method call



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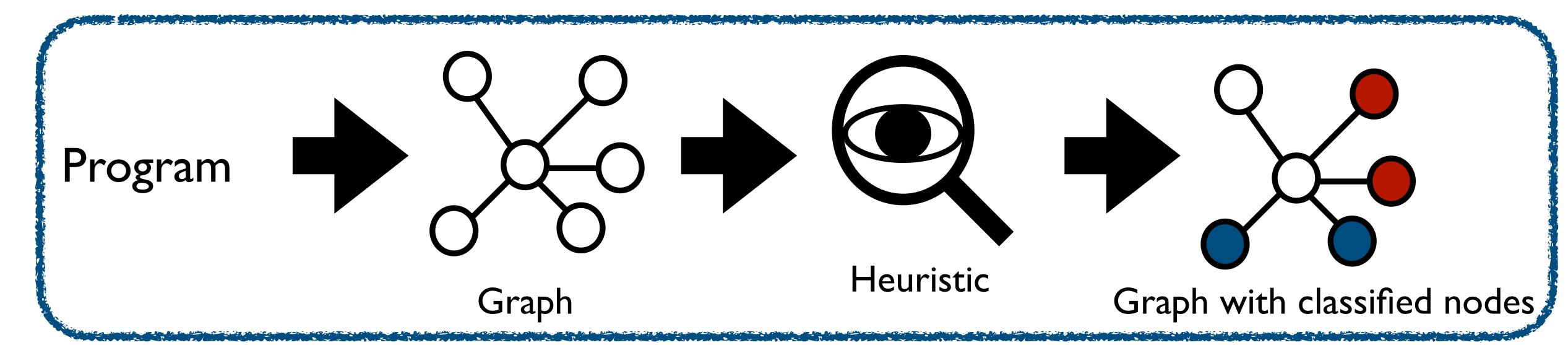


• A recent trend in pointer analyses is use of graph-based heuristics



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Bean [SAS' 16], Mahjong [PLDI'17], Zipper [OOPSLA'18], Scaler [FSE' 18], Eagle [OOPSLA' 19]



Workflow of graph-based heuristics

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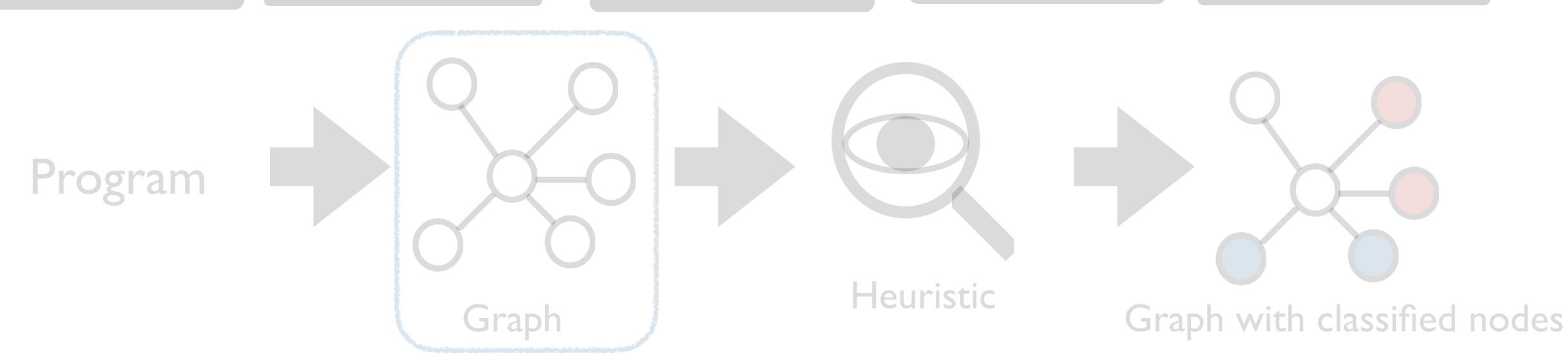
Use object allocation graph

Use field points-to graph

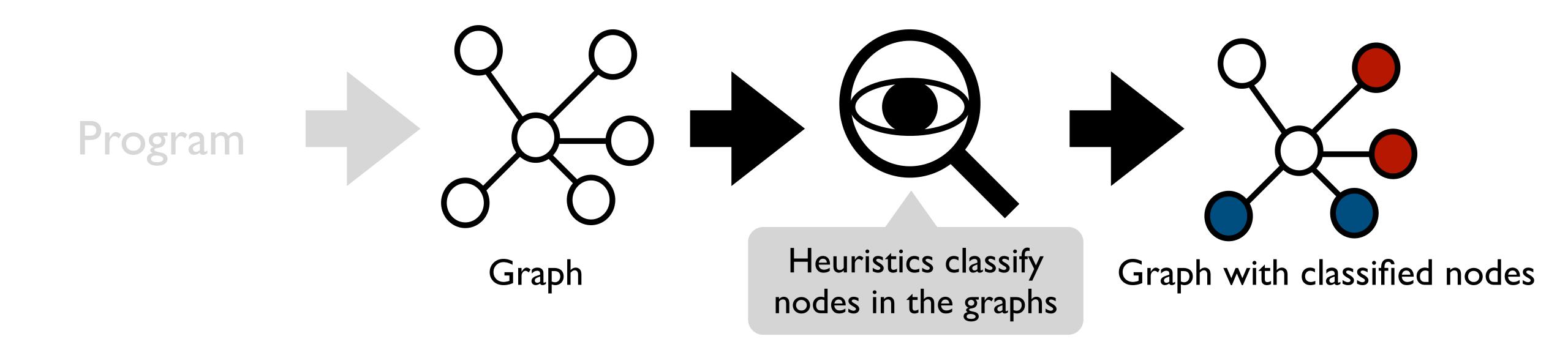
Use precision flow graph

Use object allocation graph

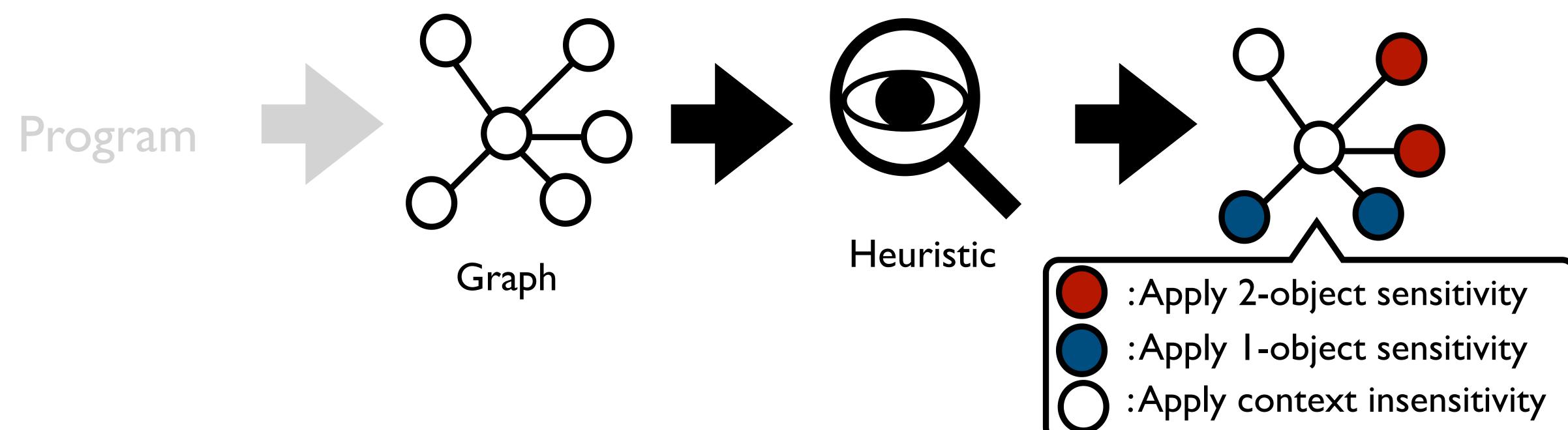
Use CFL-reachability graph



• A recent trend in pointer analyses is use of graph-based heuristics

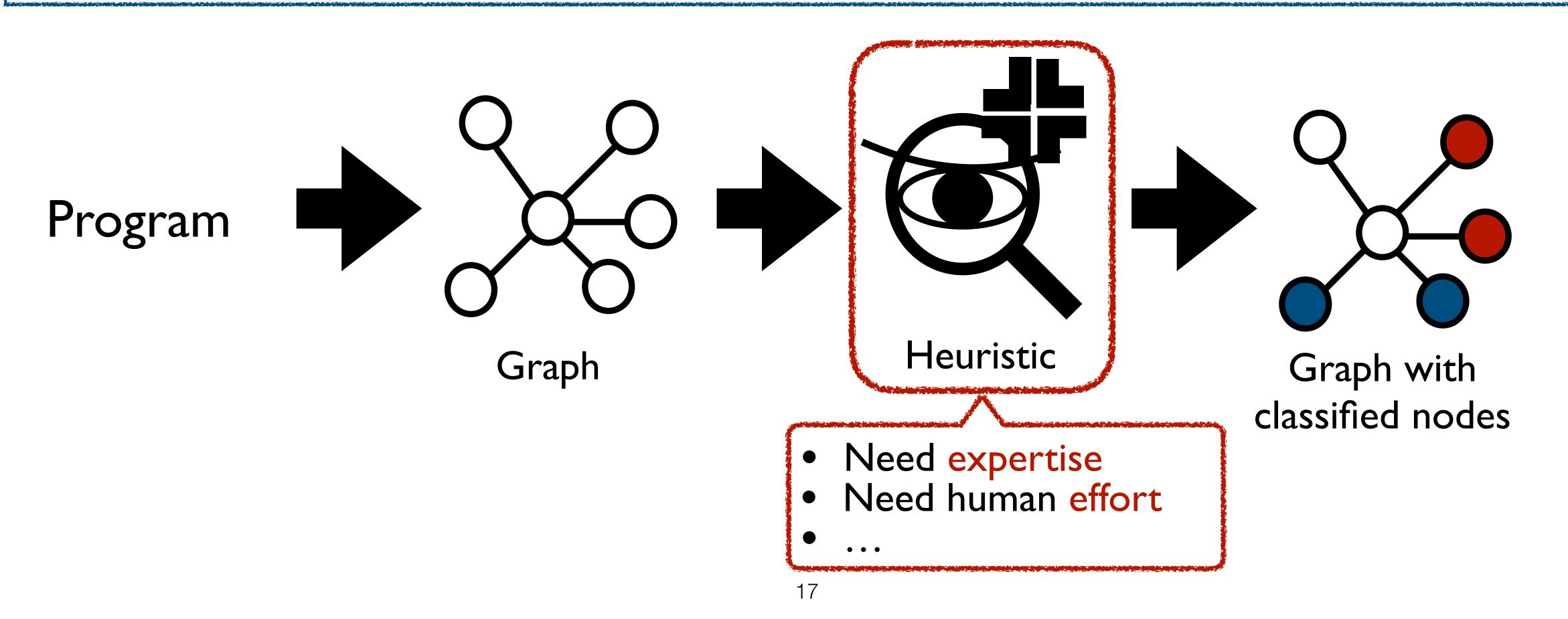


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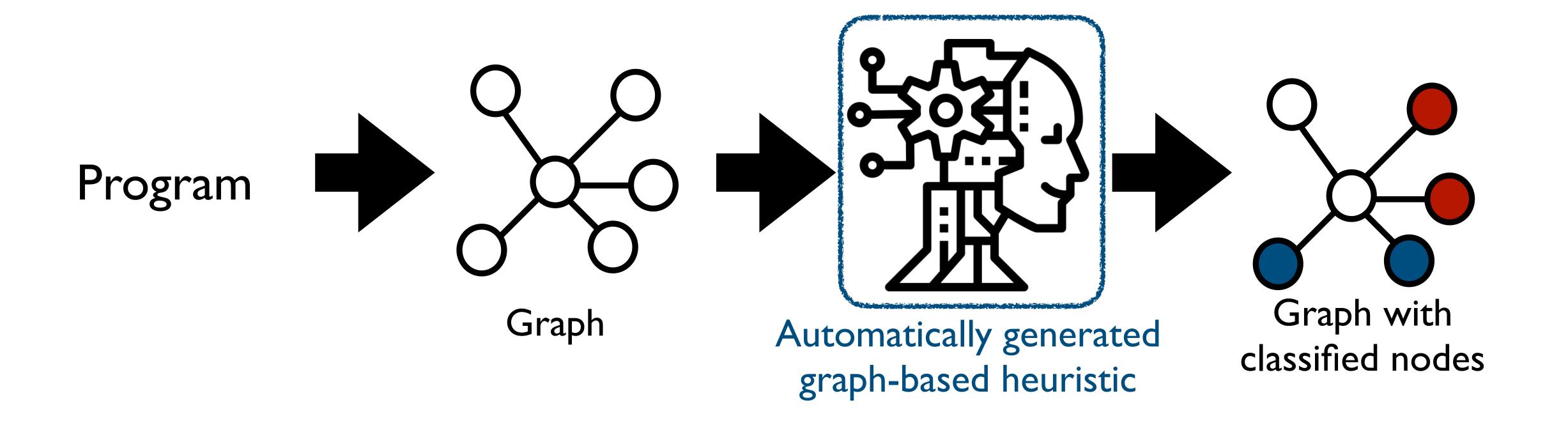
Problem

• However, it is a difficult task to design graph-based heuristics



Our Goal

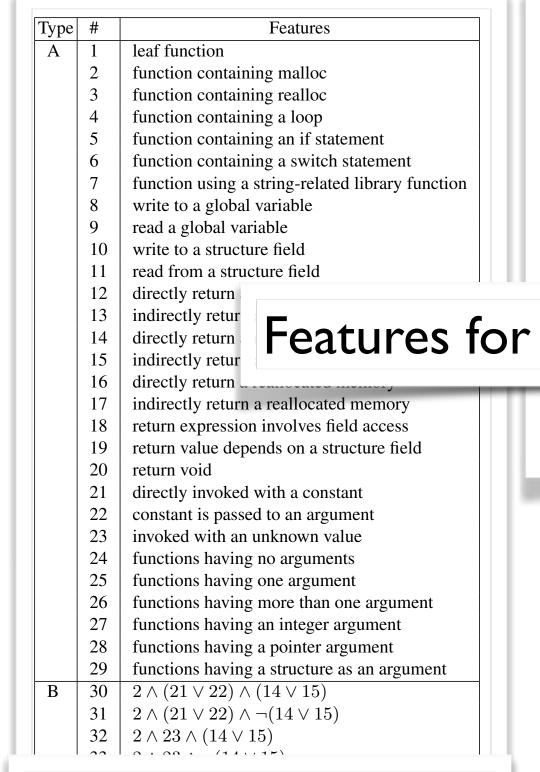
• Our goal is to automatically generate graph based heuristics without human effort



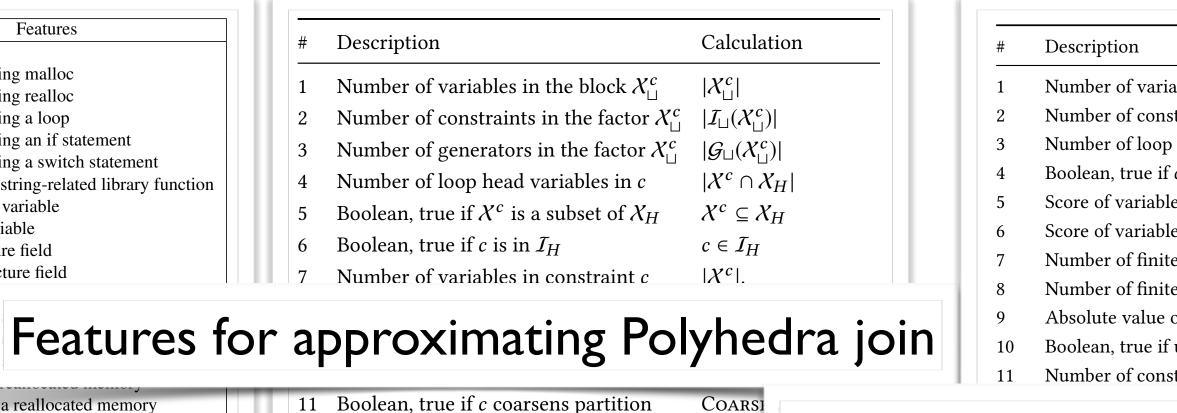
• Prior data-driven program analyses require application specific features

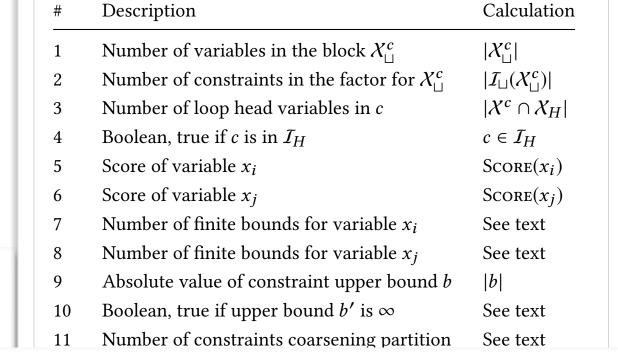
Type	#	Features
A	1	local variable
	2	global variable
	3	structure field
4		location created by dynamic memory allocation
	5	defined at one program point
	6	location potentially generated in library code
	7	assigned a constant expression (e.g., $x = c1 + c2$)
	8	compared with a constant expression (e.g., $x < c$)
	9	compared with an other variable (e.g., $x < y$)
	10	negated in a conditional expression (e.g., if (!x))
	11	directly used in malloc (e.g., malloc(x))
	12	indirectly used in malloc (e.g., $y = x$; malloc(y))
	13	directly used in realloc (e.g., realloc(x))
	14	indirectly used in realloc (e.g., $y = x$; realloc(y))
	15	directly returned from malloc (e.g., $x = malloc(e)$)
	16	indirectly returned from malloc
	17	directly returned from realloc (e.g., $x = realloc(e)$)
	18	indirectly returned from realloc
	19	incremented by one (e.g., $x = x + 1$)
	20	incremented by a constant expr. (e.g., $x = x + (1+2)$)
	21	incremented by a variable (e.g., $x = x + y$)
	22	decremented by one (e.g., $x = x - 1$)
	23	decremented by a constant expr (e.g., $x = x - (1+2)$)
	24	decremented by a variable (e.g., $x = x - y$)
	25	multiplied by a constant (e.g., $x = x * 2$)
	26	multiplied by a variable (e.g., $x = x * y$)
	27	incremented pointer (e.g., p++)
	28	used as an array index (e.g., a[x])
	29	used in an array expr. (e.g., x[e])
	30	returned from an unknown library function
	31	modified inside a recursive function
	32	modified inside a local loop
	33	read inside a local loop
В	34	$1 \land 8 \land (11 \lor 12)$
	35	$2 \land 8 \land (11 \lor 12)$
	36	$1 \wedge (11 \vee 12) \wedge (19 \vee 20)$
	37	$2 \wedge (11 \vee 12) \wedge (19 \vee 20)$
	38	1 \(\langle (11 \rangle 12) \(\langle (15 \rangle 16) \)

Features for flow sensitivity heuristics



Features for context sensitivity heuristics





Features for approximating Octagon join

T					Class A	(Signa	ature fea	tures)				
		A1	"java"	A2	"lang"	A3	"sun"	A4	"()"	A5	"void"	
		A6	"security"	A7	"int"	A8	"util"	A9	"String"	A10	"init"	
					Class B ((Addit	ional fea	tures)				
	B1	Metho	ds contained	in nest	ed class	B7	Meth	ods cor	ntaining stat	ic metho	od invoca	tion
	B2	Metho	ds taking mu	ltiple a	rguments	B8	Meth	ods cor	ntaining virt	ual meth	nod invoc	ation
	B3	Metho	ds containing	g array	load	B9	Statio	metho	od			
	B4	Metho	ds containing	g local a	assignments	B10) Meth	ods cor	ntaining a si	ngle hea	p allocati	on
	Fea	atur	es foi	^ C(ontex	t t	unn	elir	ng he	uris	tics	e ons

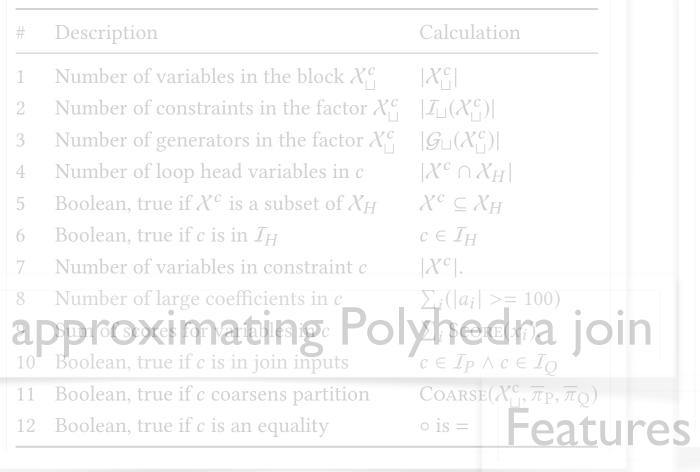
12 Boolean, true if c is an equality

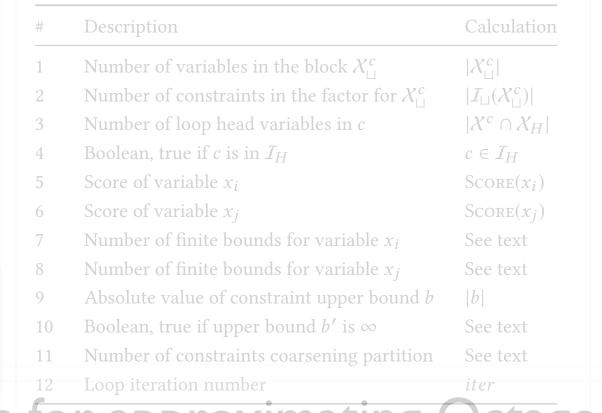
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Features for flow sensitivity heuristics







		. 0	ure features)
			sun" A4 "()" A5 "void"
	A6 "security" A7 "int"	A8 "	util" A9 "String" A10 "init"
	Class B (A	Additio	onal features)
B1	Methods contained in nested class	B7	Methods containing static method invocation
B2	2 Methods taking multiple arguments		Methods containing virtual method invocation
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B5	Methods containing local variables	B11	Methods taking an argument of Object type
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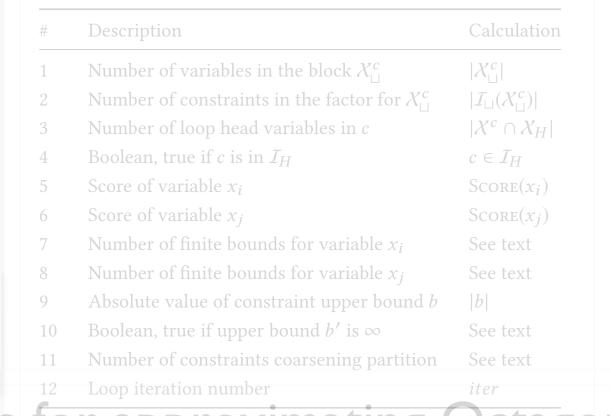
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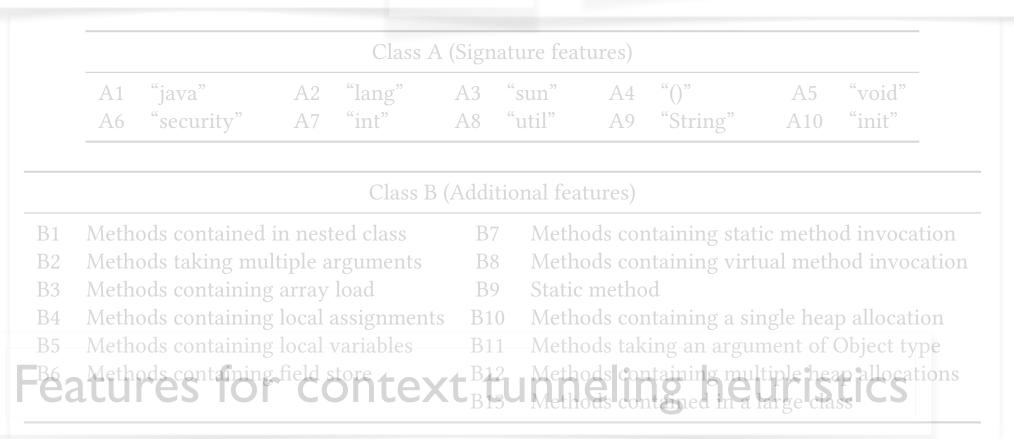
Type		Features
	40	$(11 \lor 12) \land 29$
	42	atures for flow
e	145 45	sitixitx heuristics

S	S. C. T.	كالمستعدد	Tien a la l	A
A A	Type	#	Features	
- Aug	Α	1	leaf function	
5		2	function containing malloc	1
ž		3	function containing realloc	
,		4	function containing a loop	
		5	function containing an if statement	
		6	function containing a switch statement	
,		7	function using a string-related library function	
		8	write to a global variable	
		9	read a global variable	
		10	write to a structure field	
		11	read from a structure field	
		12	directly return a constant expression	
		13	indirectly return a constant expression	
		14	directly return an allocated memory	
		15	indirectly return an allocated memory	
		16	directly return a reallocated memory	
		17	indirectly return a reallocated memory	
		18	return expression involves field access	
		19	return value depends on a structure field	
		20	return void	
		21	directly invoked with a constant	
		22	constant is passed to an argument	
		23	invoked with an unknown value	
		24	functions having no arguments	
		25	functions having one argument	'
		26	functions having more than one argument	
		27	functions having an integer argument	
3		28	functions having a pointer argument	
		29	functions having a structure as an argument	
	В	30	$2 \wedge (21 \vee 22) \wedge (14 \vee 15)$	
		31	$2 \wedge (21 \vee 22) \wedge \neg (14 \vee 15)$	
		32	$2 \wedge 23 \wedge (14 \vee 15)$	3
y		22	0 . 00 . (14 15)	1

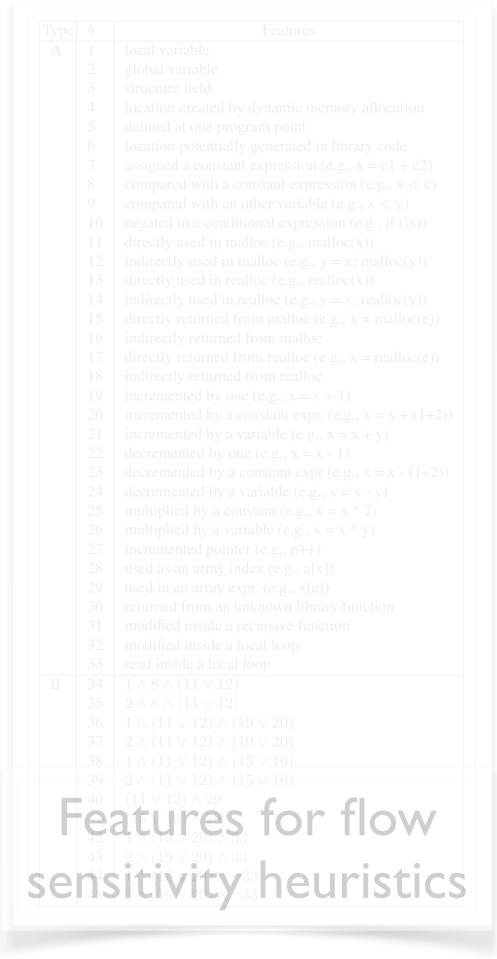
Features for context sensitivity heuristics

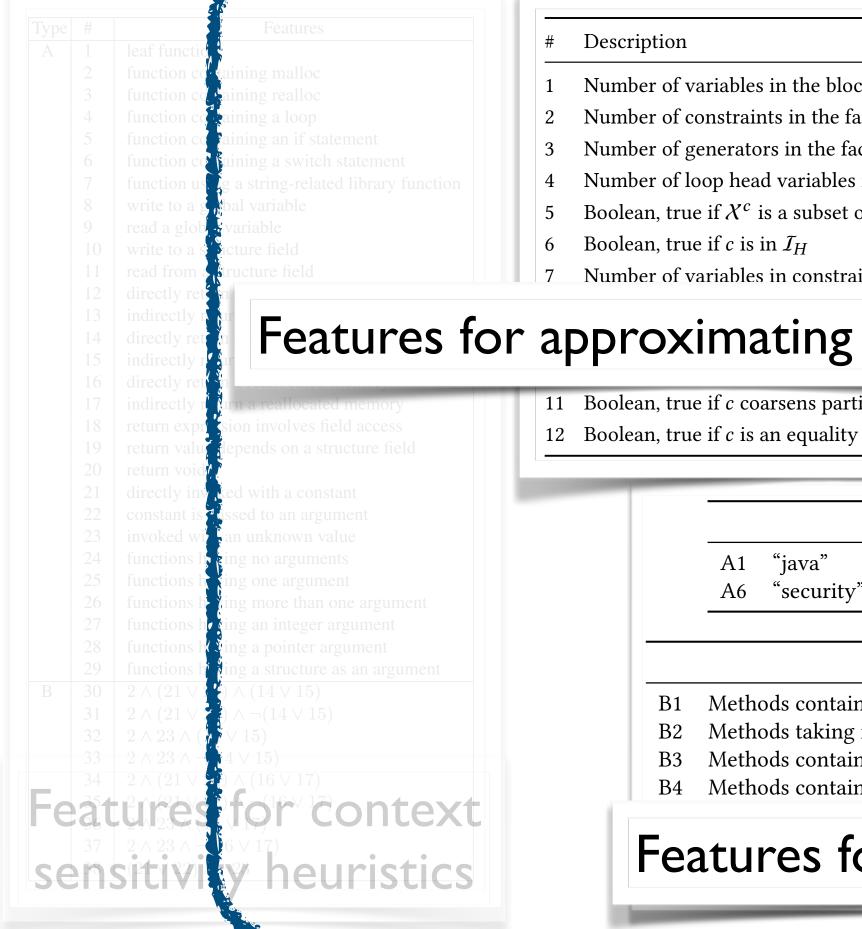
#	Description	Calculation
1	Number of variables in the block \mathcal{X}^c_{\sqcup}	$ \mathcal{X}^c_{\sqcup} $
2	Number of constraints in the factor X_{\sqcup}^{c}	$ \mathcal{I}_{\sqcup}(\mathcal{X}^c_{\sqcup}) $
3	Number of generators in the factor X_{\sqcup}^{c}	$ \mathcal{G}_{\sqcup}(\mathcal{X}^c_{\sqcup}) $
4	Number of loop head variables in <i>c</i>	$ X^c \cap X_H $
5	Boolean, true if X^c is a subset of X_H	$\mathcal{X}^c \subseteq \mathcal{X}_H$
6	Boolean, true if c is in I_H	$c \in \mathcal{I}_H$
7	Number of variables in constraint <i>c</i>	$ X^c $.
8	Number of large coefficients in <i>c</i>	$\sum_{i}(a_i > = 100)$
9	optokimating Pol	Viceria ioin
	Boolean, true if c is in join inputs	$c \in I_P \land c \in I_Q$
11	Boolean, true if c coarsens partition	Coarse $(\chi_{\square}^{\rm c}, \overline{\pi}_{\rm P}, \overline{\pi}_{\rm Q})$
12	Boolean, true if c is an equality	• is = Feature

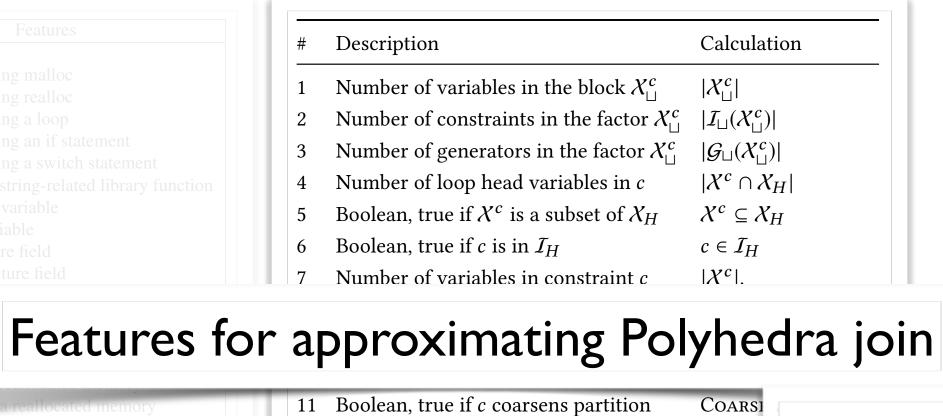


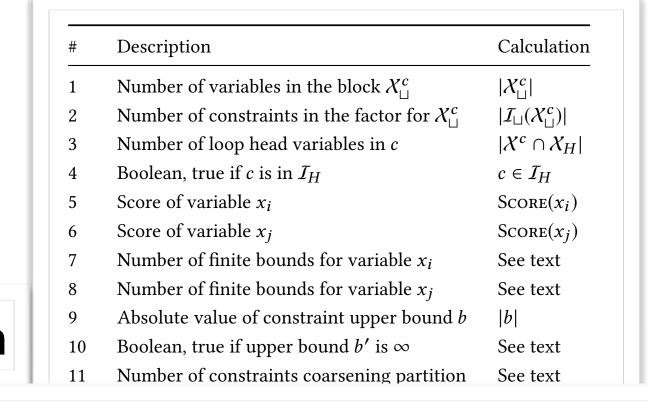


Prior data-driven program analyses require application specific features





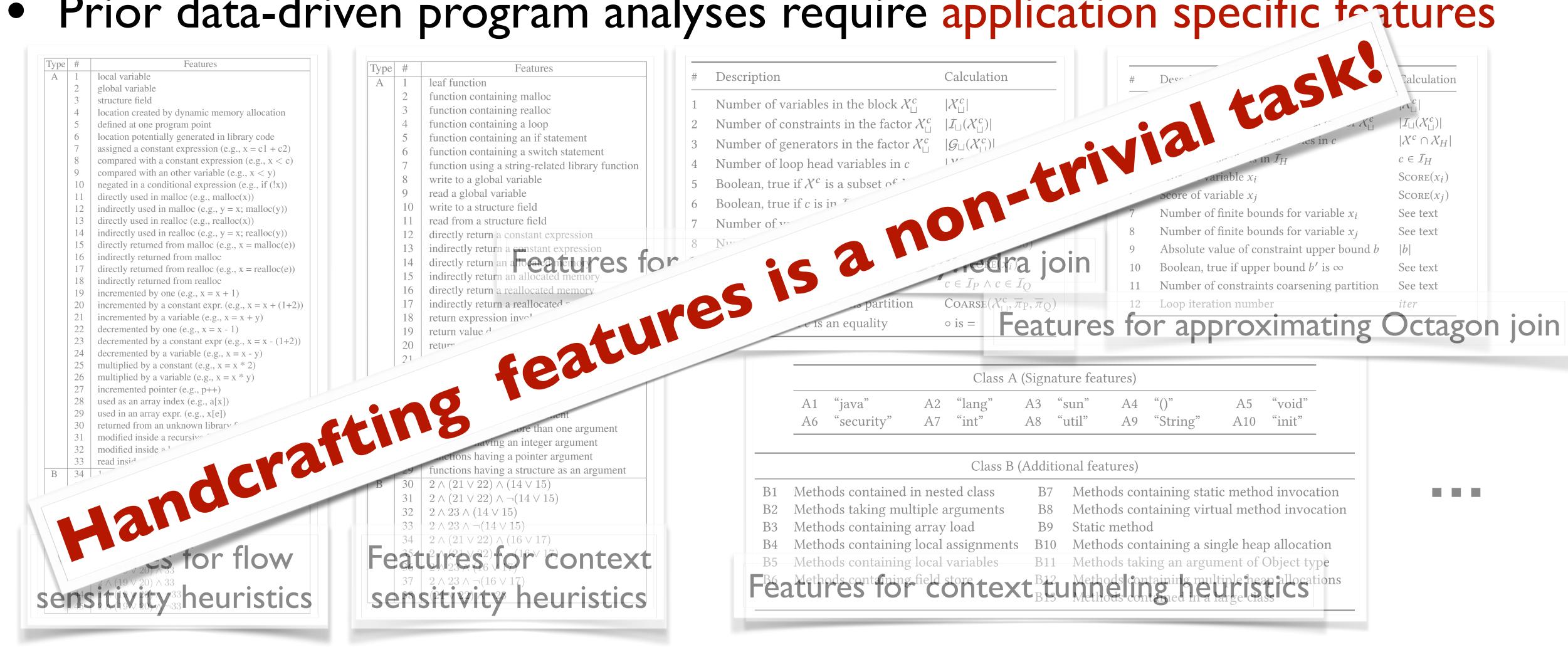




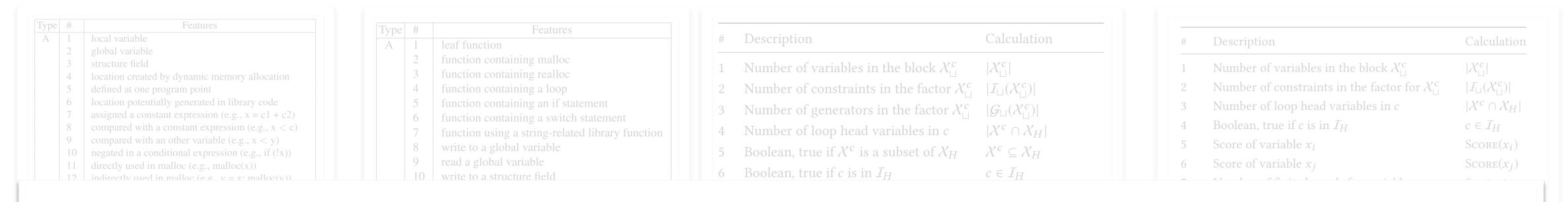
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	A6	"security"	A7	"int"	A8	"util"	A9	"String"	A10	"init"	
D4) (1	1 , 1		Class B (•				. ,1	1.	
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Fea	atu	res foi	^ C(ontex	t t	unn	elir	ng he	uris	tics	e ons

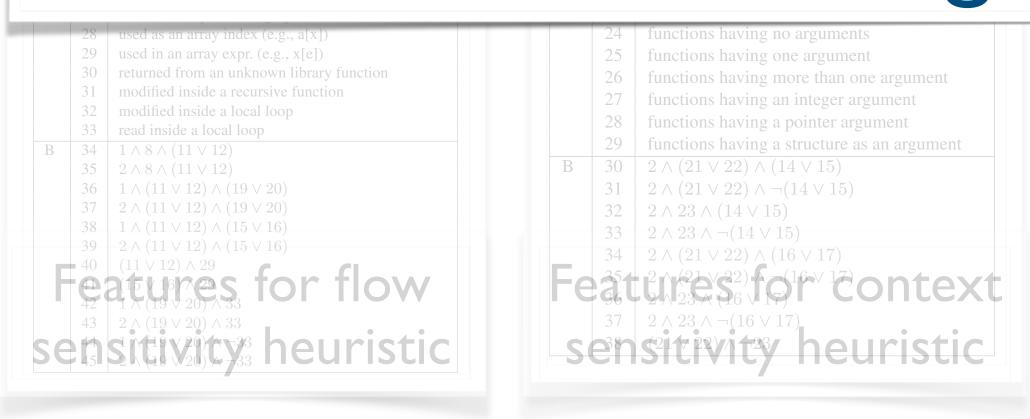
• Prior data-driven program analyses require application specific features



• Our technique does not require such application specific features



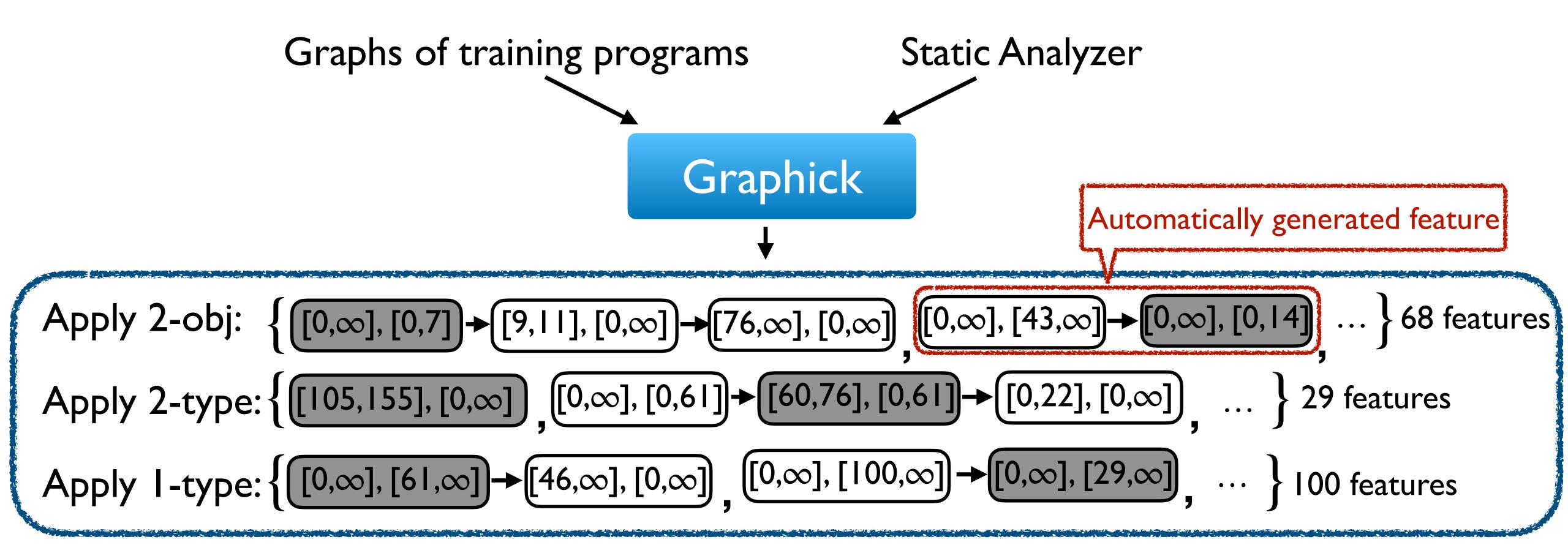
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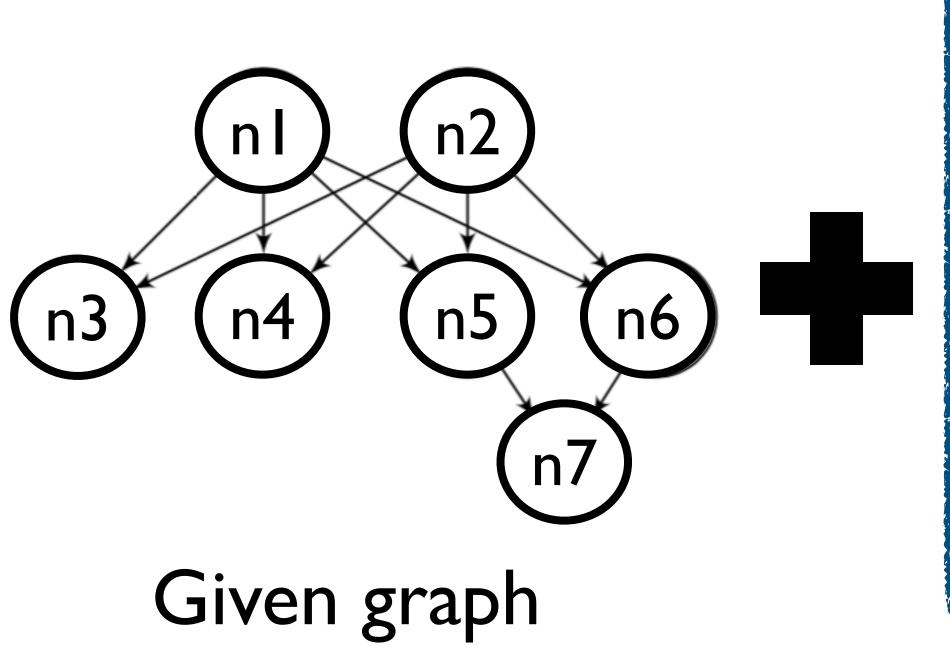
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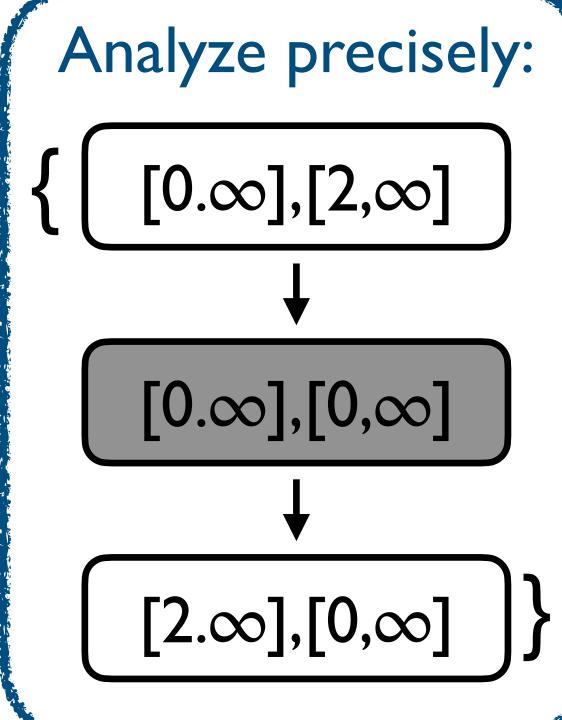
Our Technique: Graphick



Automatically generated graph-based context sensitivity heuristic

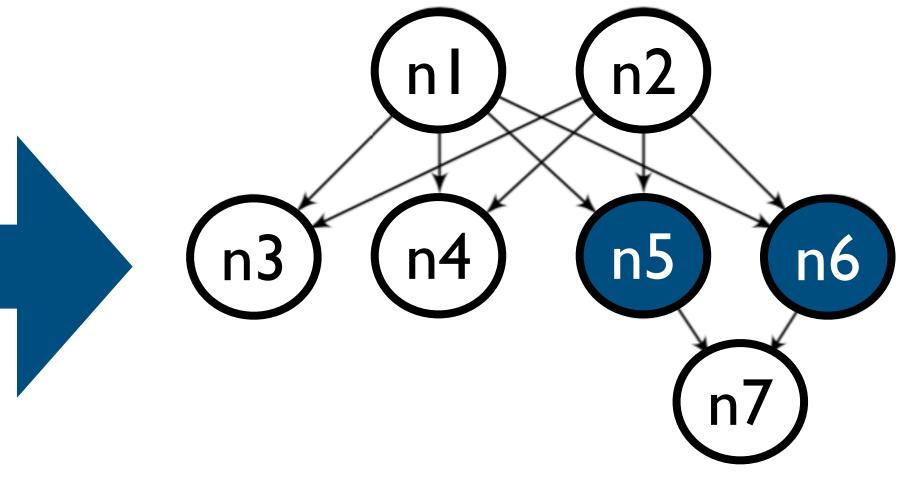
A learned heuristics classifies nodes with features it contains





Heuristic example

describe topological properties

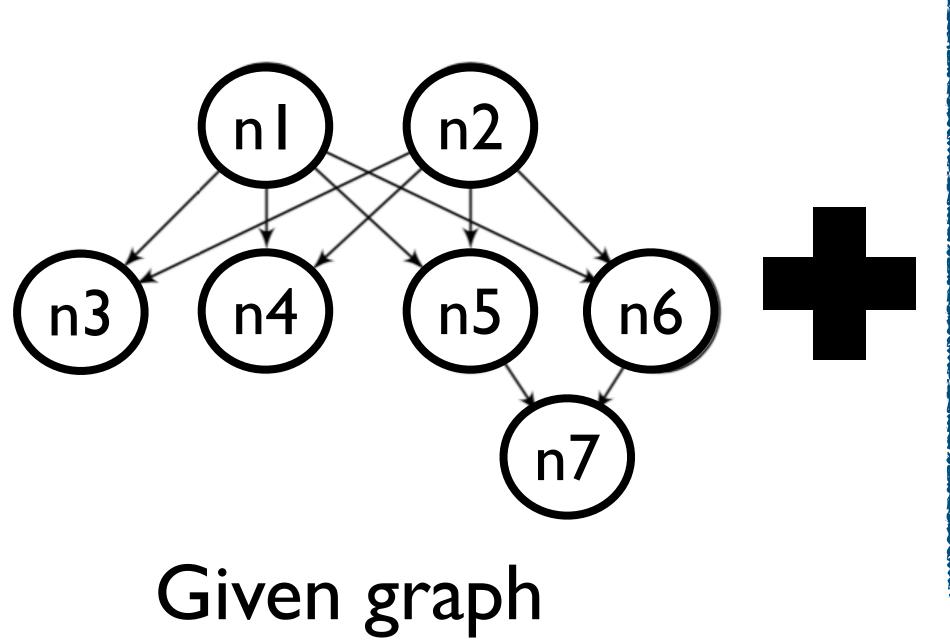


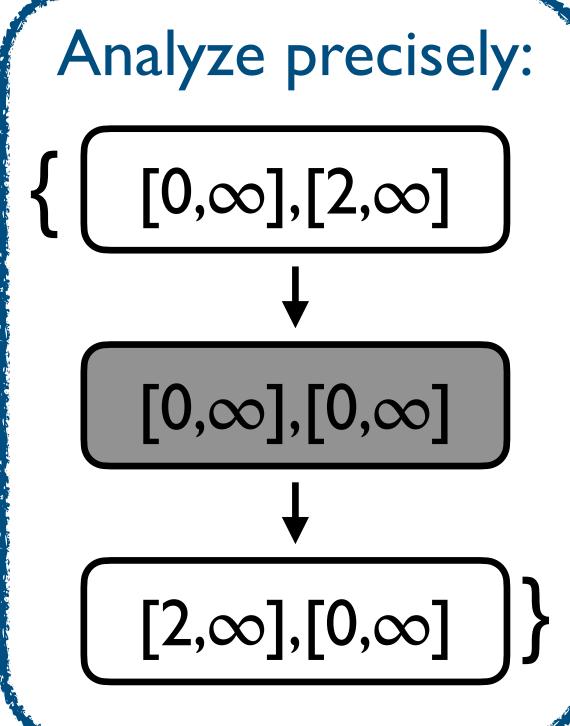
Classified nodes

analyze precisely: n5, n6

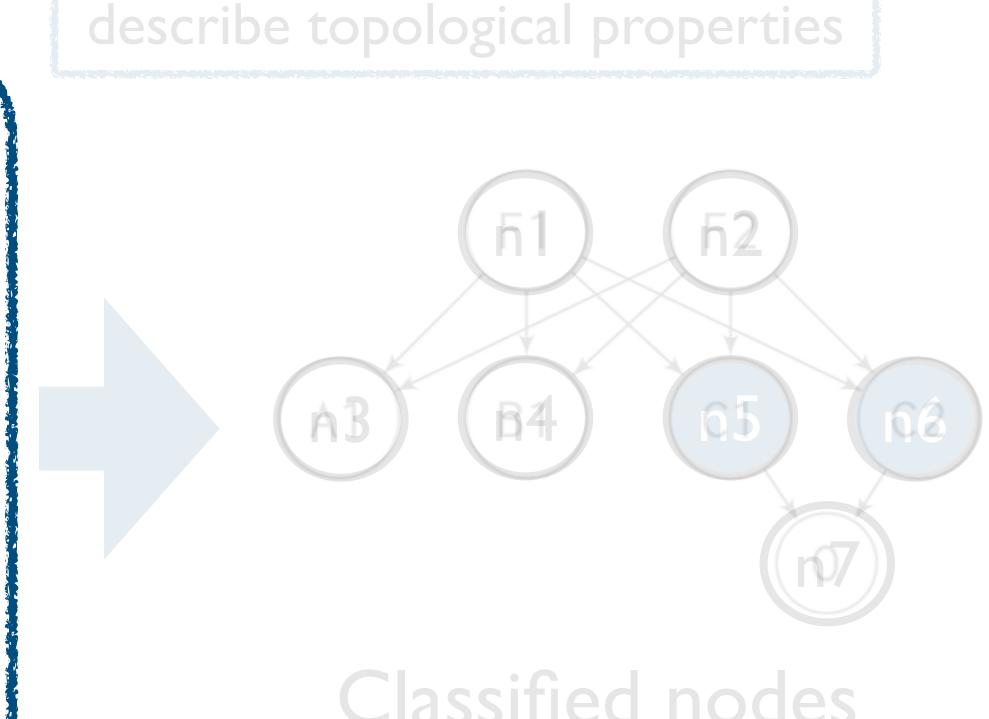
analyze coarsely: others

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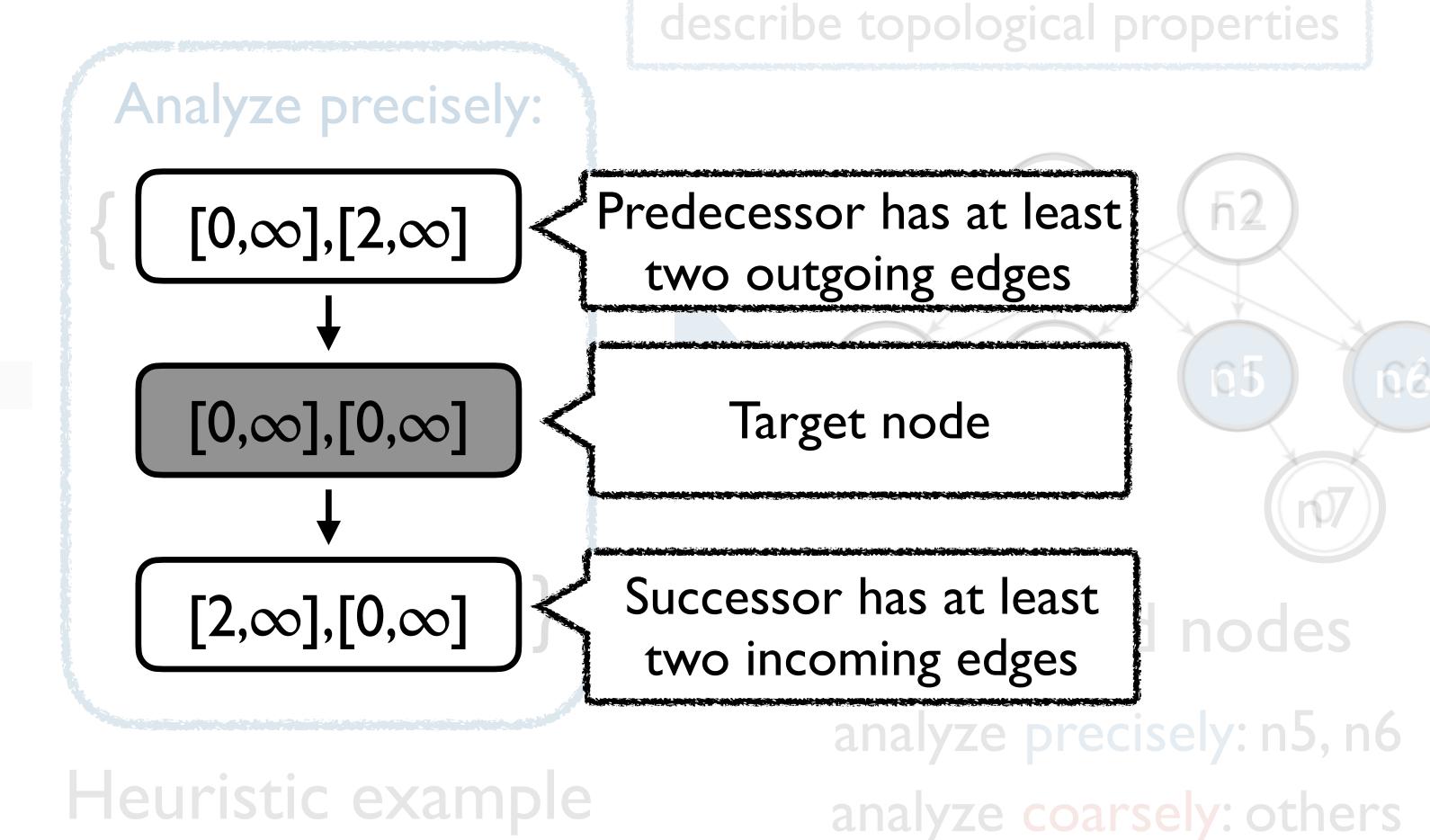






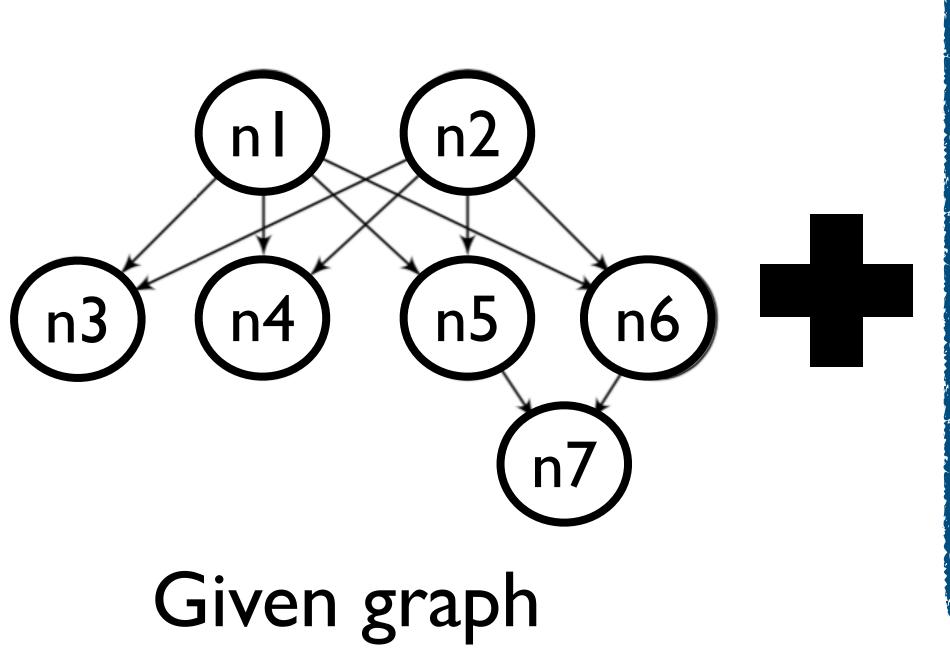
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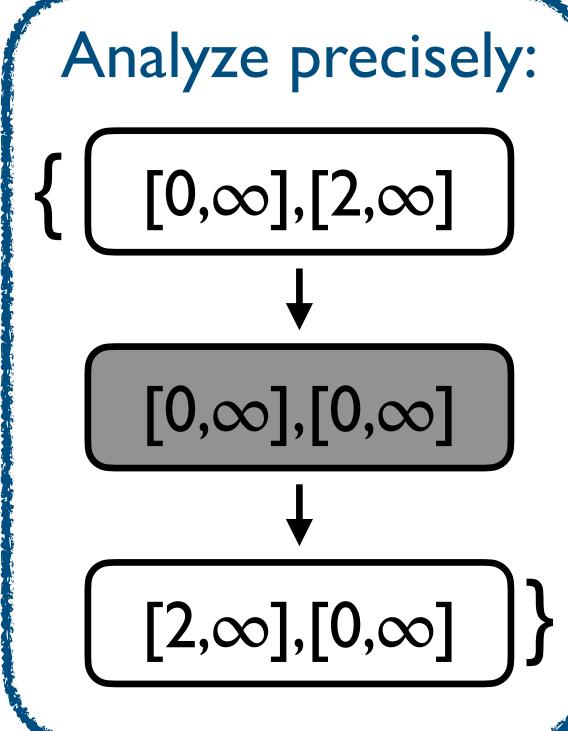
• A learned heuristics classifies nodes with features it contains



28

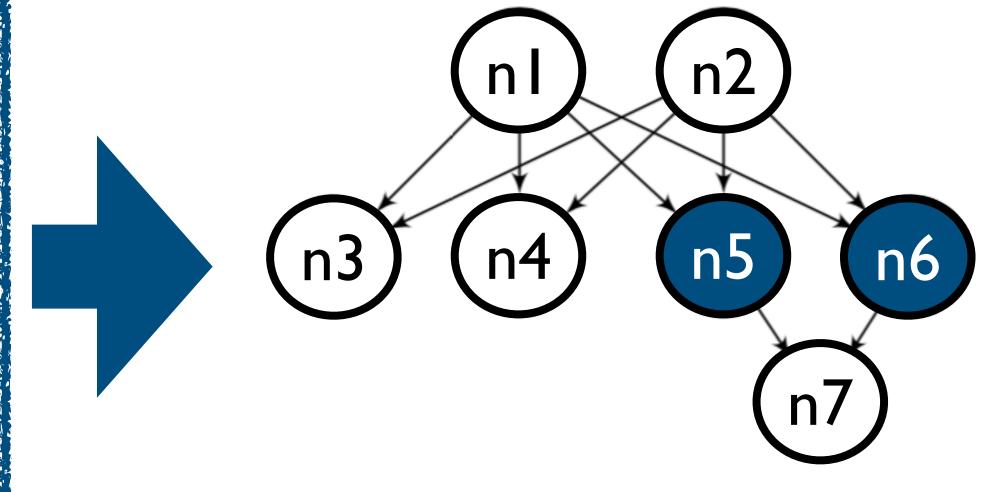
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Heuristic example

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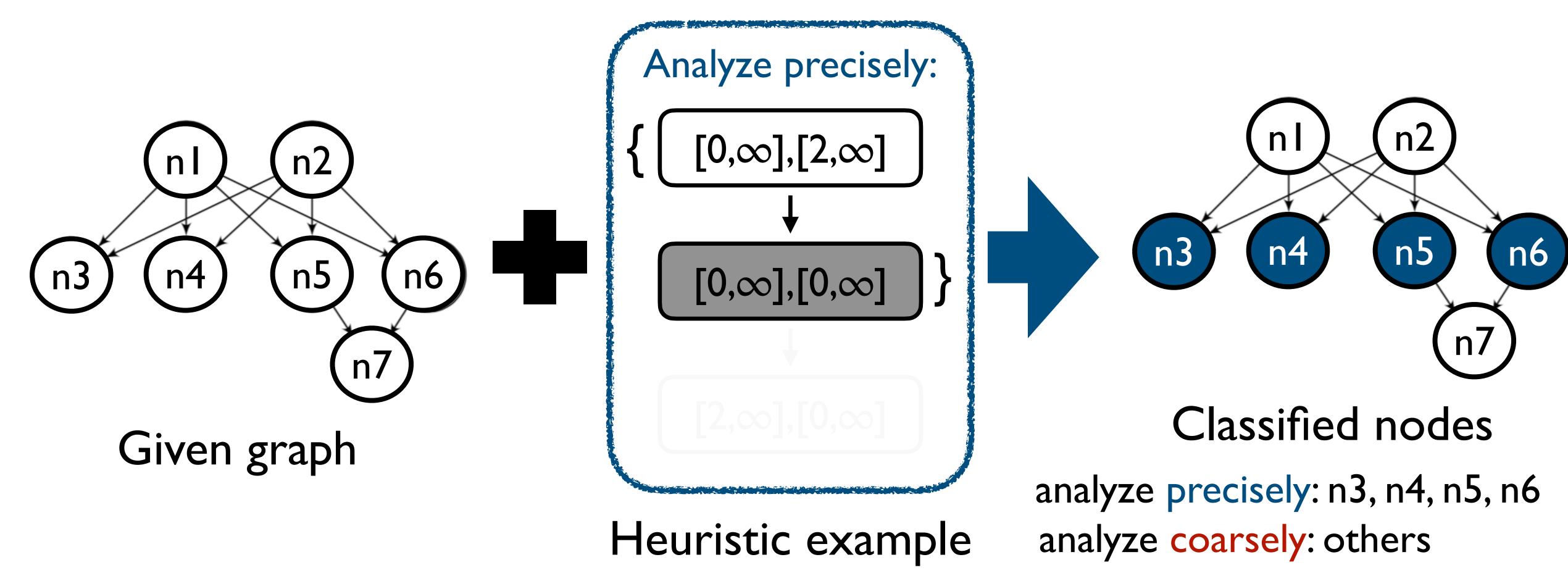


Classified nodes

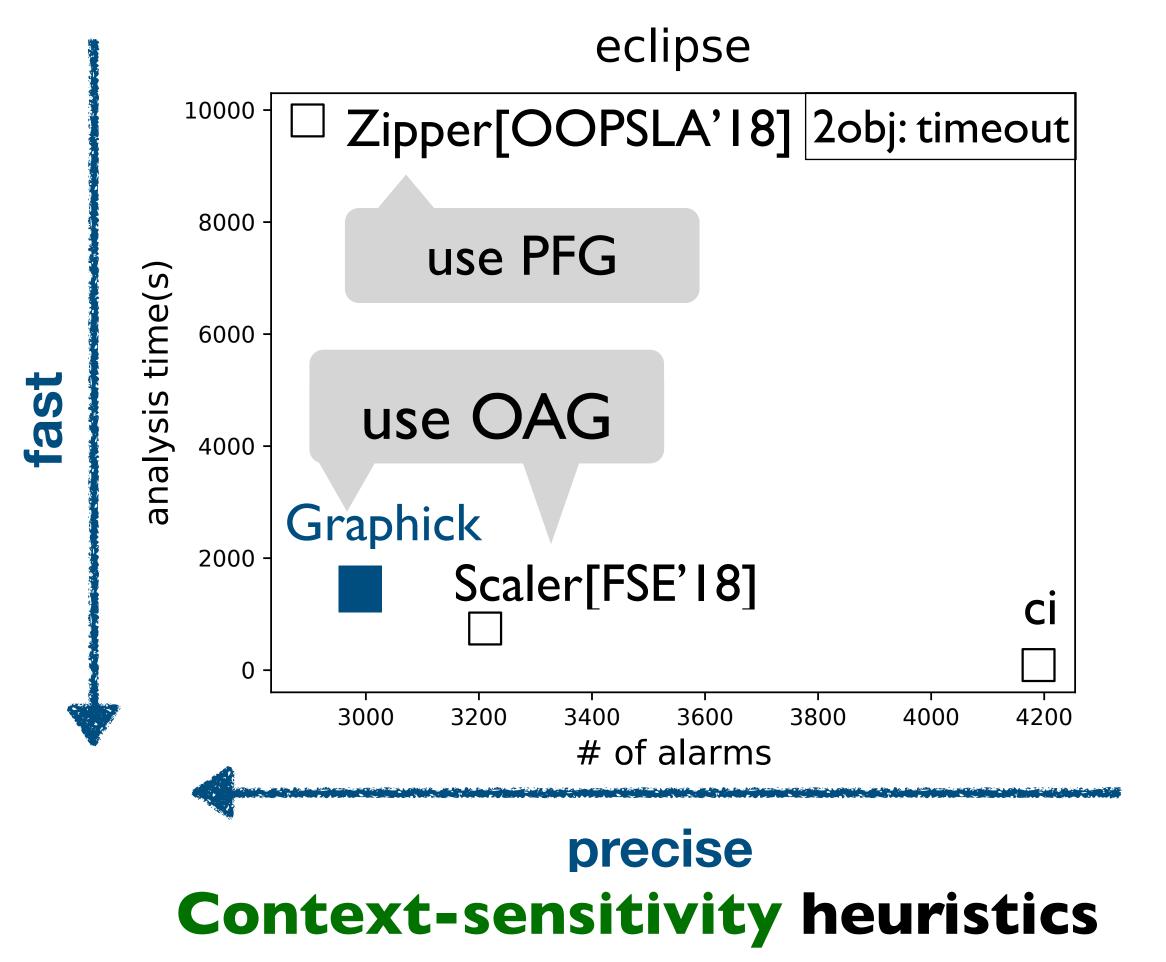
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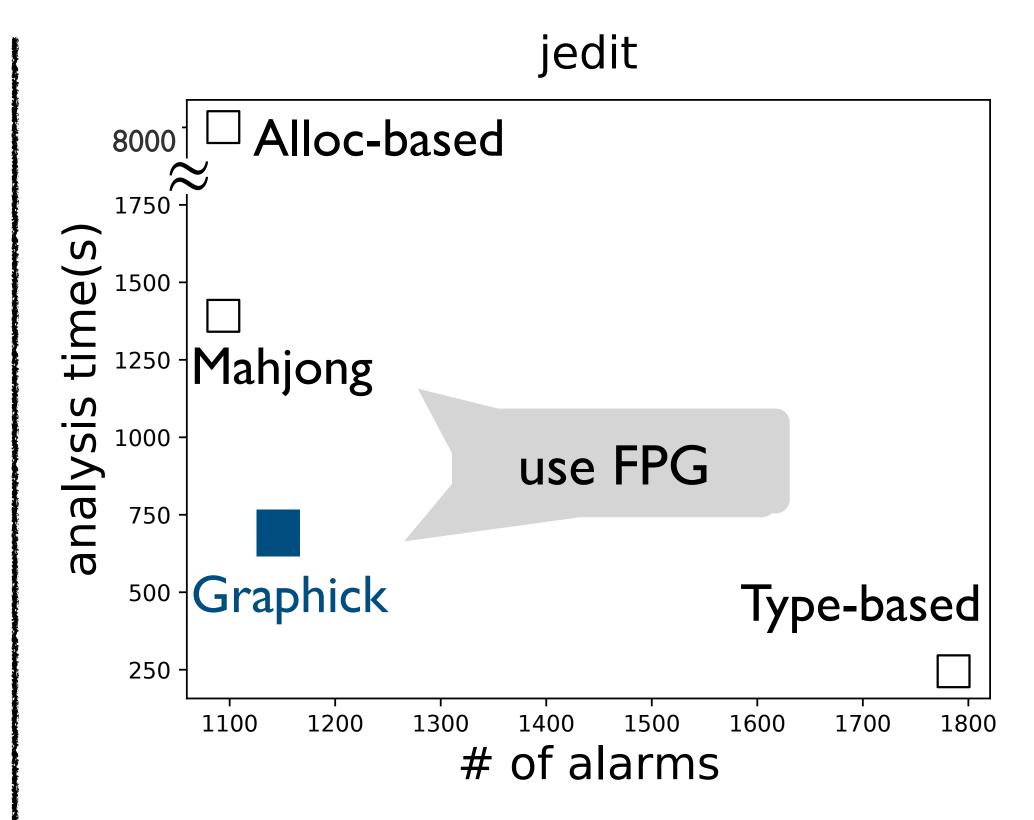
analyze coarsely: others

• Features in heuristic determine analysis performance

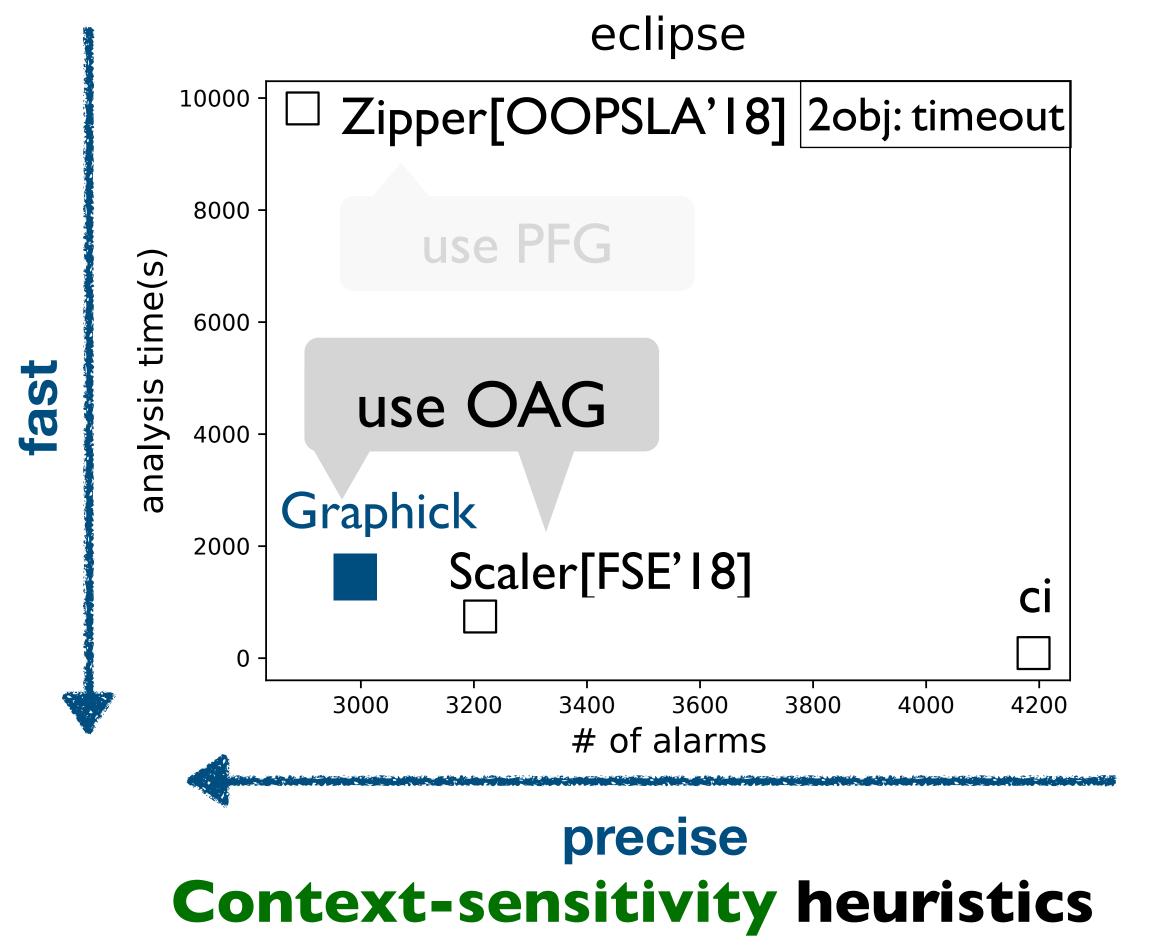


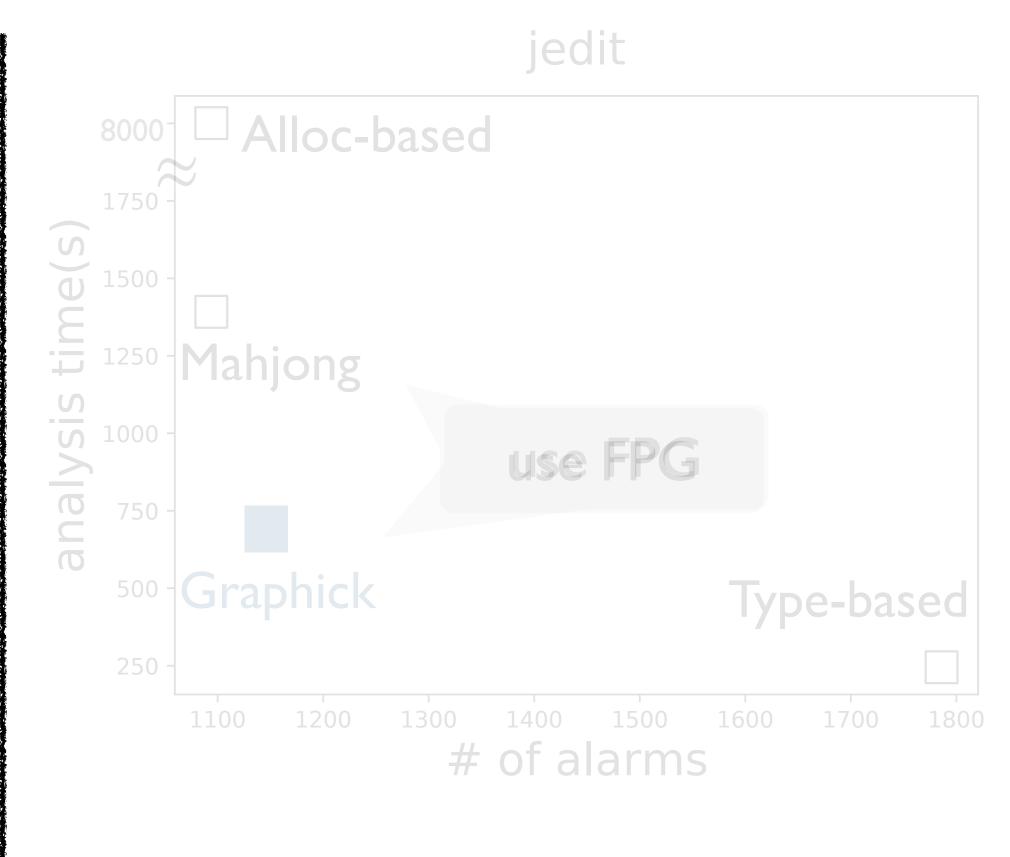
Graphick successfully produces context-sensitivity and heap abstraction heuristics



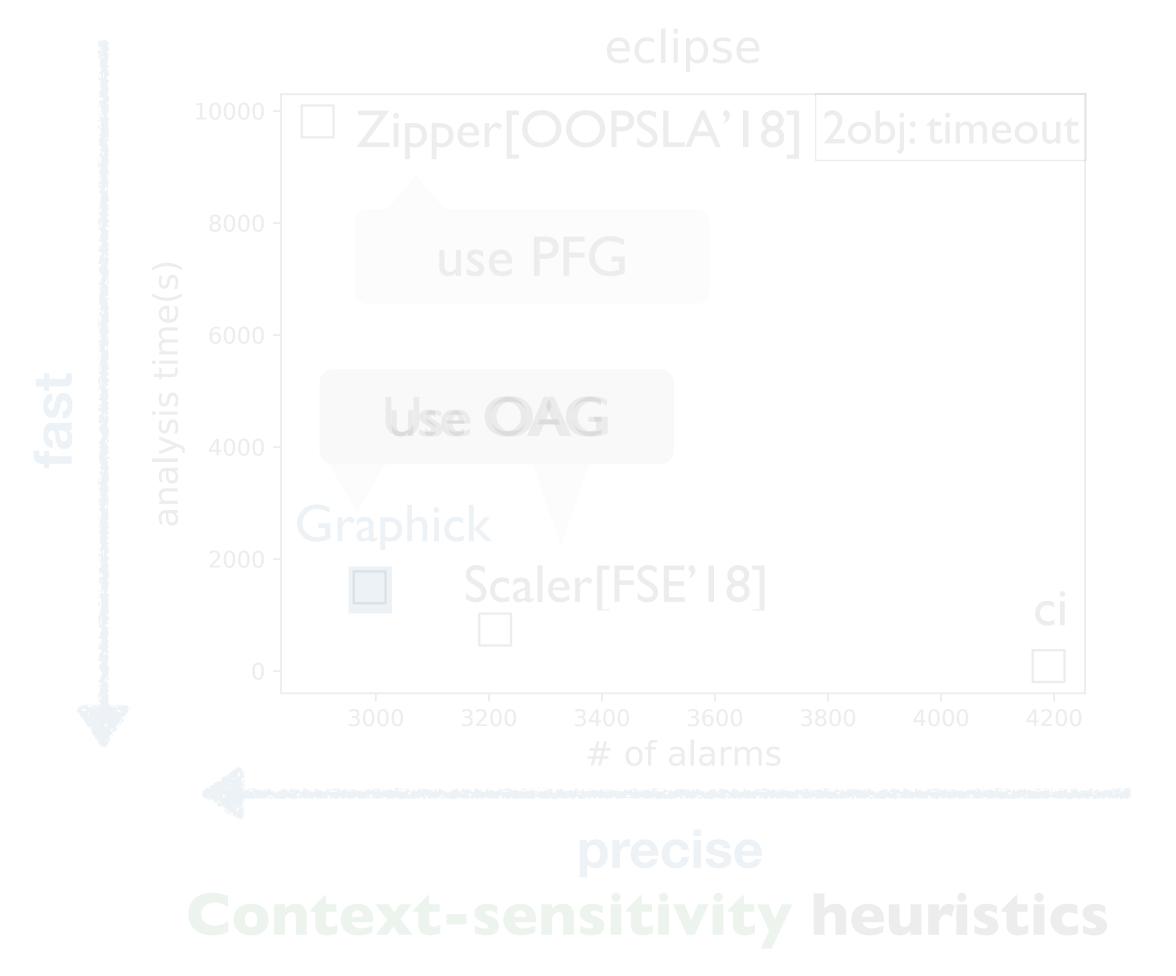


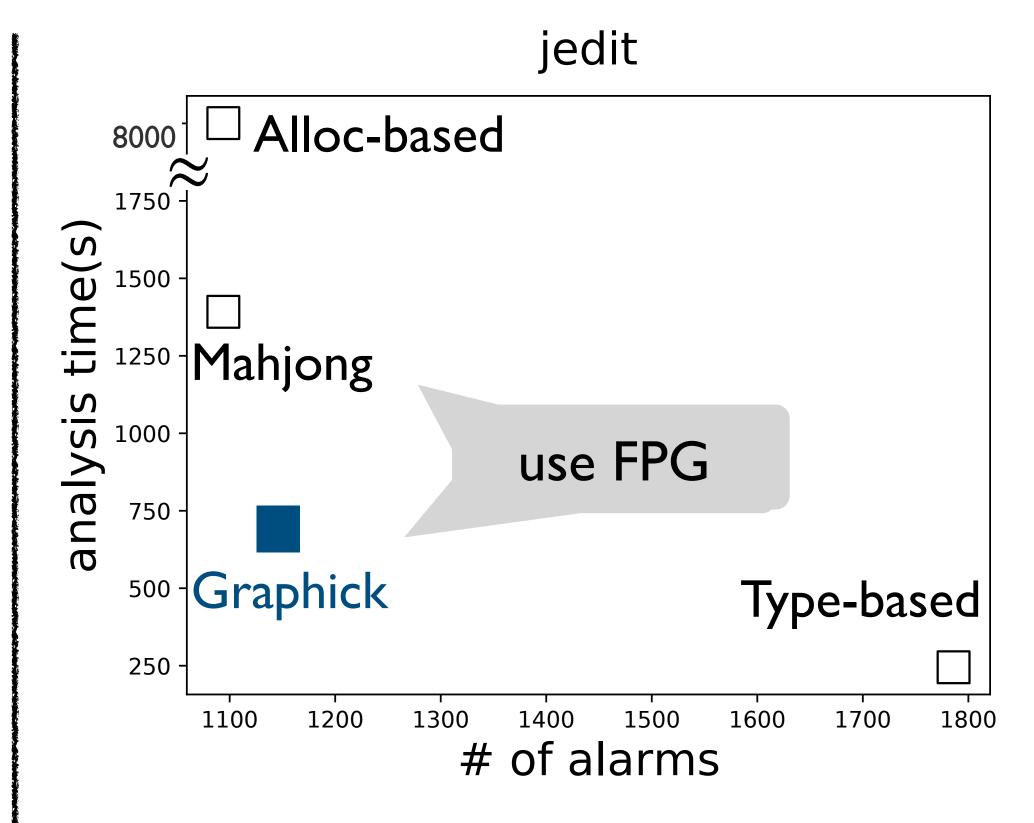
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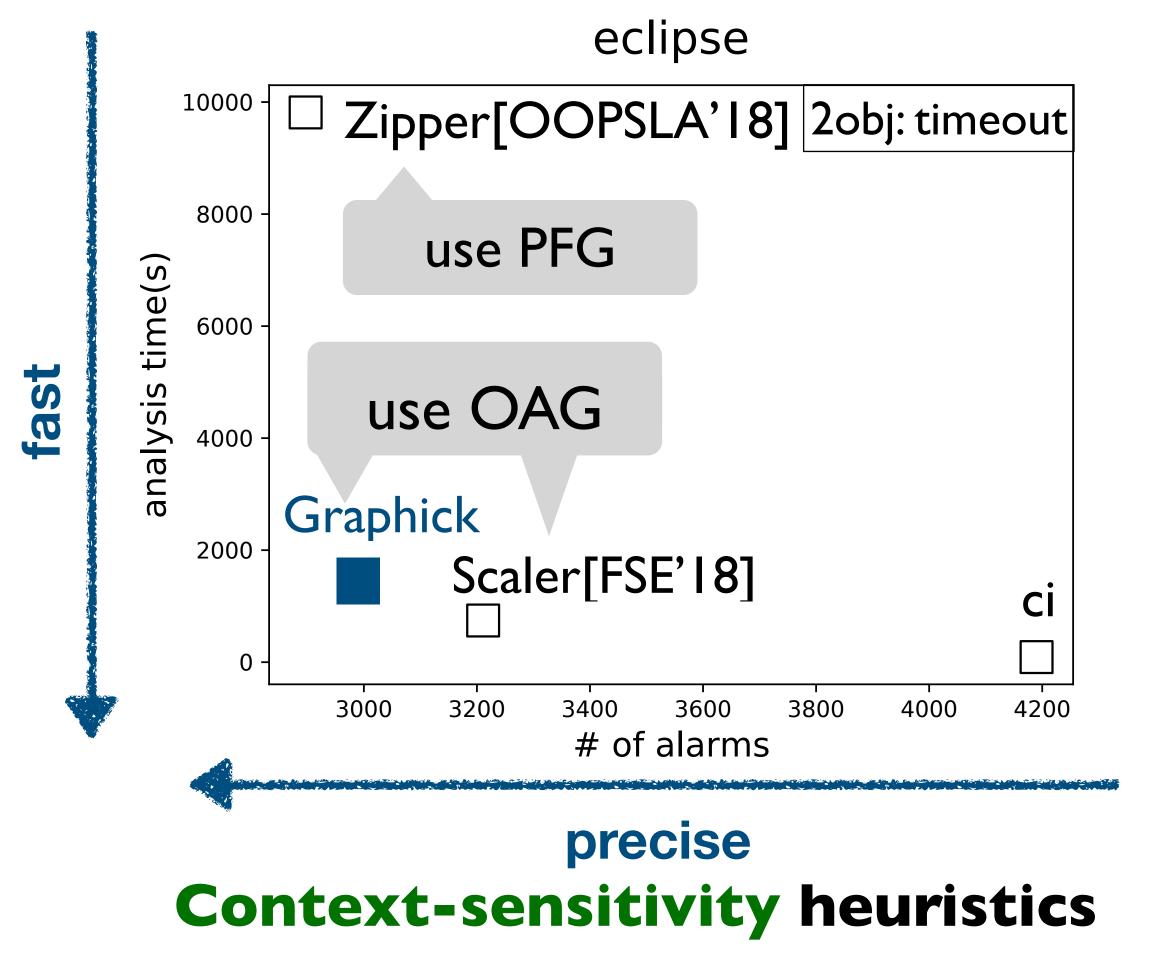


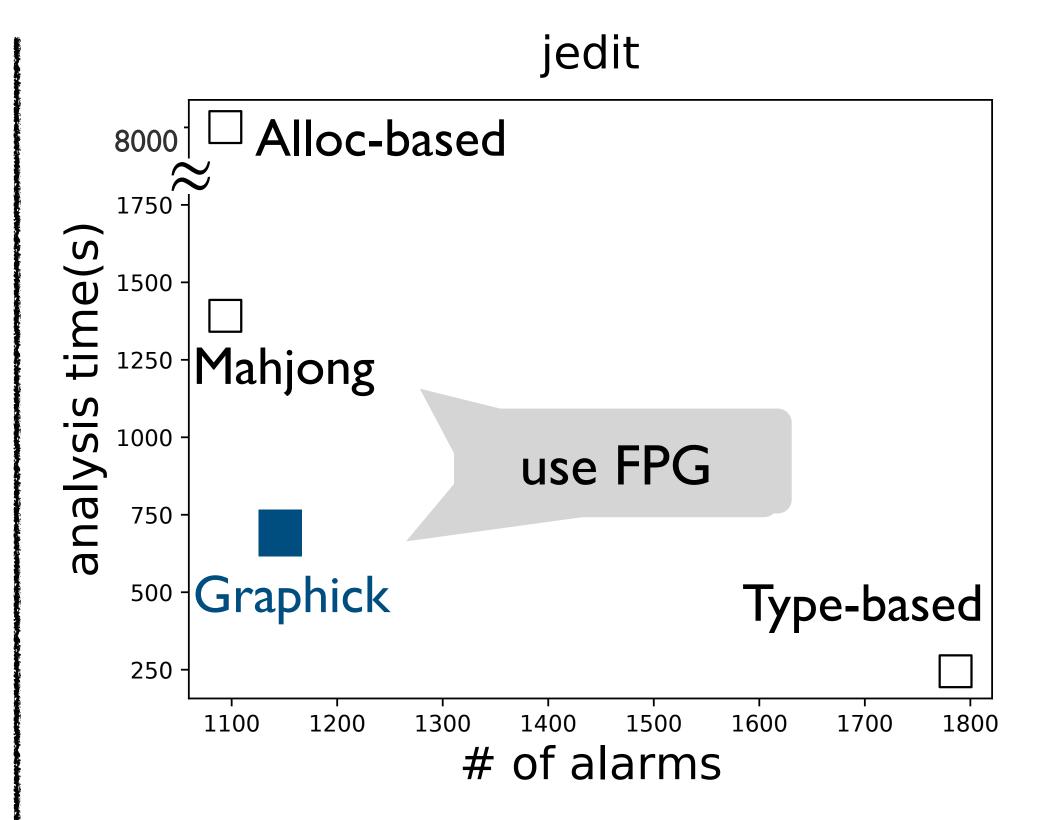
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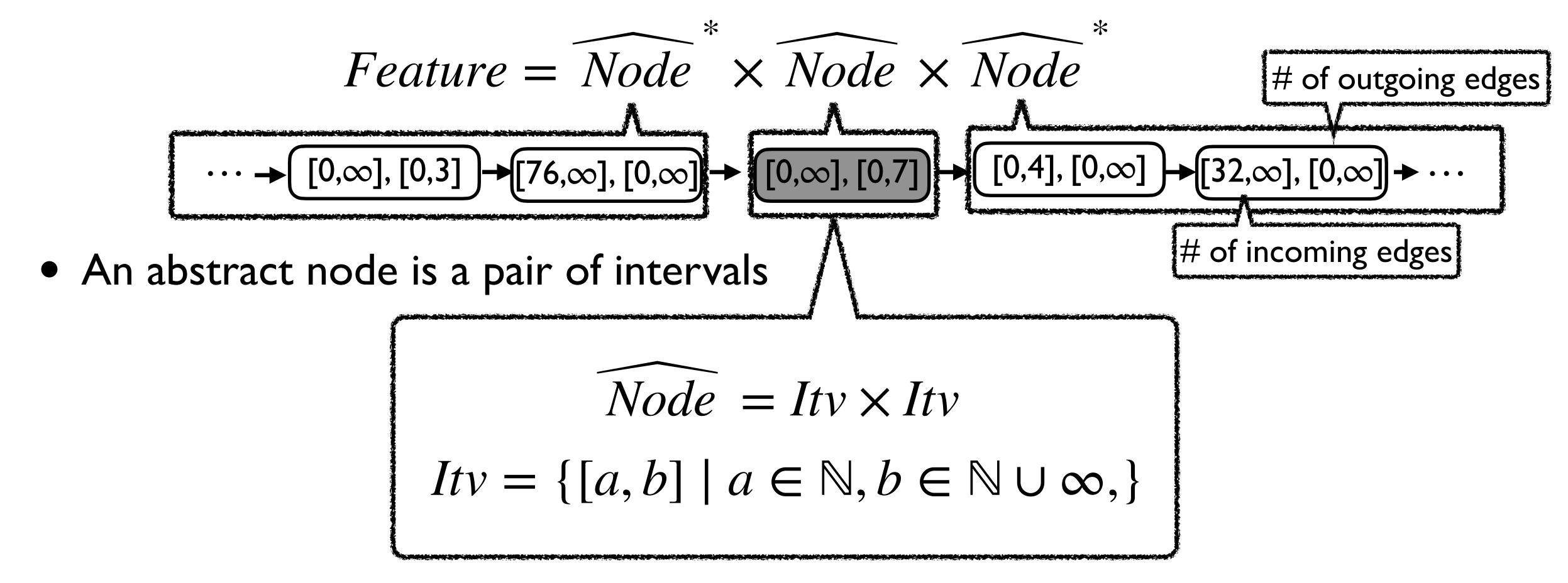




Details

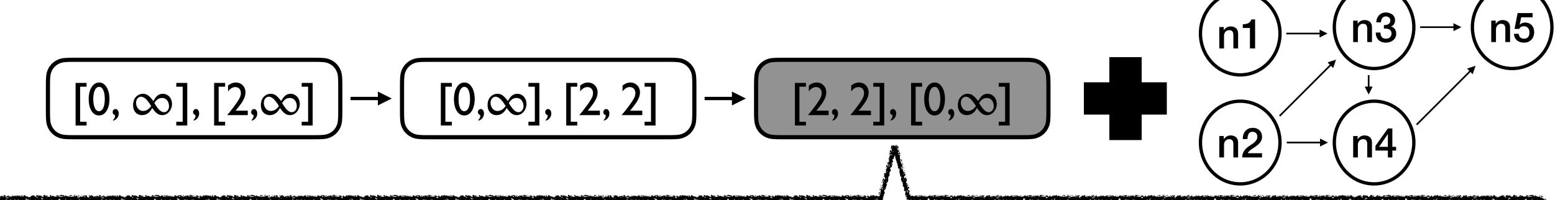
Feature Description Language

• A feature is a list of abstract nodes



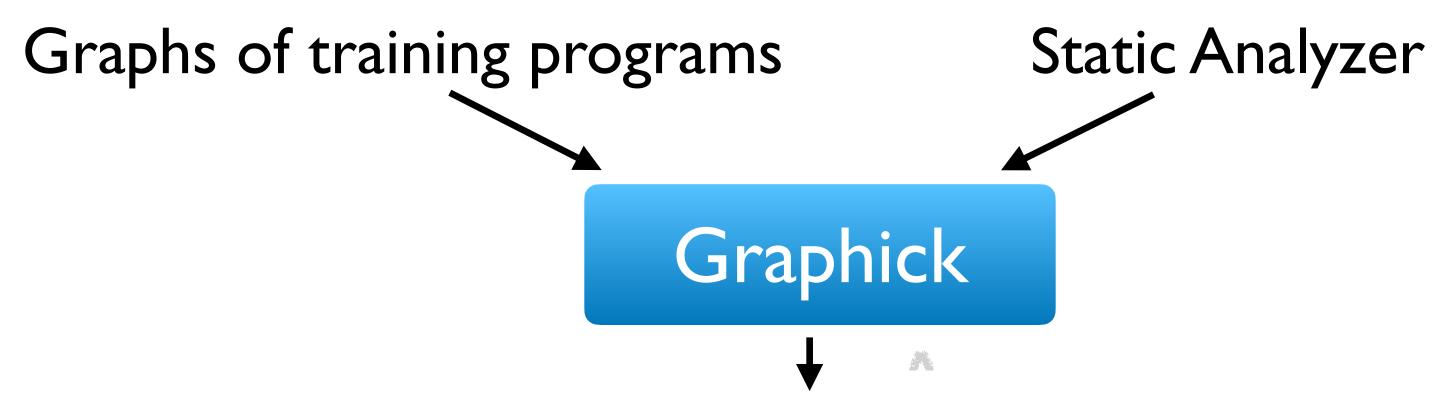
How a Feature Work

A feature describes a topological property of nodes in graphs



Nodes which have 2 incoming edges, and has a predecessor with 2 outgoing edges where the predecessor has a predecessor with at least 2 outgoing edges

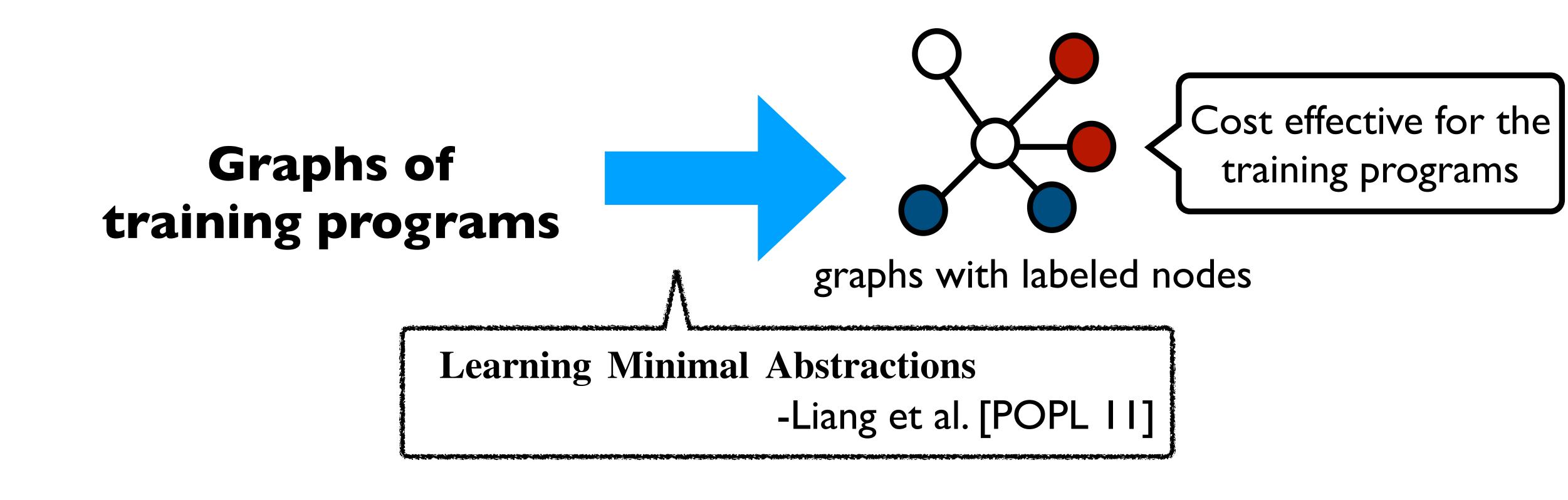
Our Technique: Graphick



How to learn heuristics from graphs of training programs?

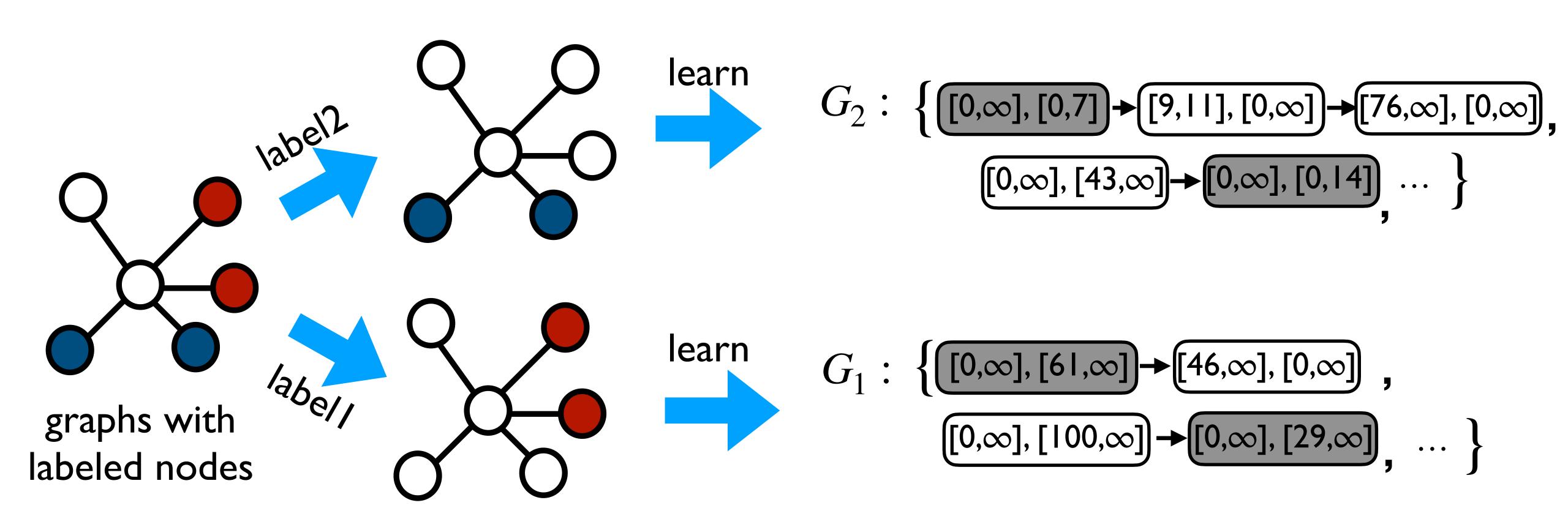
Learning Algorithm

First, we find suitable labels for nodes in the graphs of training programs



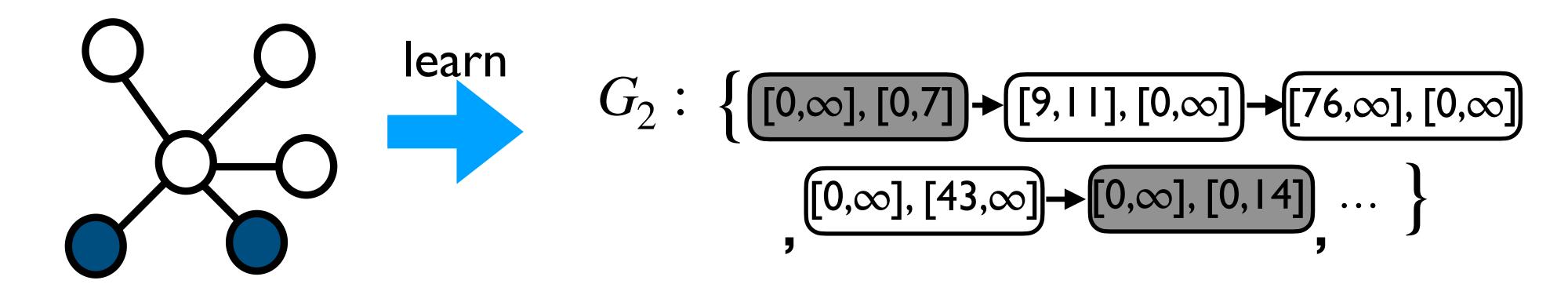
Learning Algorithm

Nodes with each label are transformed into a set of features



Learning a Set of Features

Our algorithm transforms all the labeled node into a set of features



To produce qualified features, we use the following score function:

Score of a feature f =

The number of labeled nodes chosen by f

The number of nodes chosen by f

Learning a Set of Features

Our algorithm transforms all the labeled node into a set of features

learn
$$G_2: \{[0,\infty], [0,7] \rightarrow [9,11], [0,\infty] \rightarrow [76,\infty], [0,\infty] \}$$

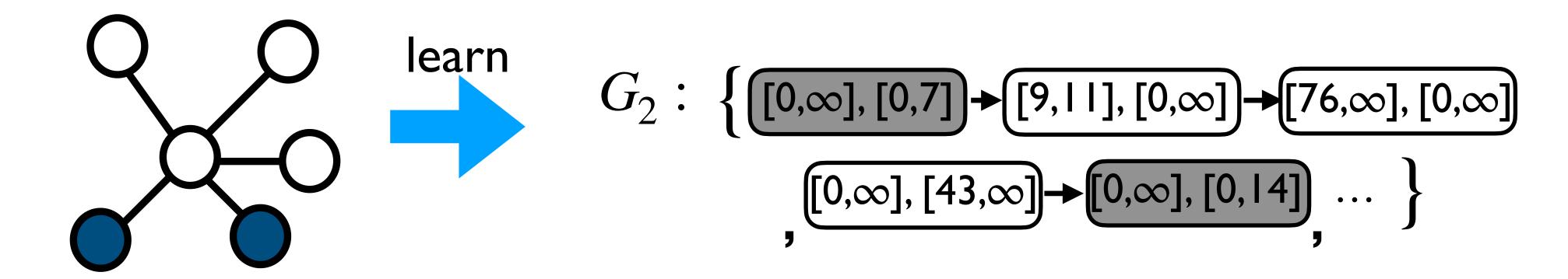
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The number of labeled nodes chosen by f

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Learning a Set of Features

Our algorithm transforms all the labeled node into a set of features



• To produce qualified features, we use the following score function:

The number of labeled nodes chosen by f

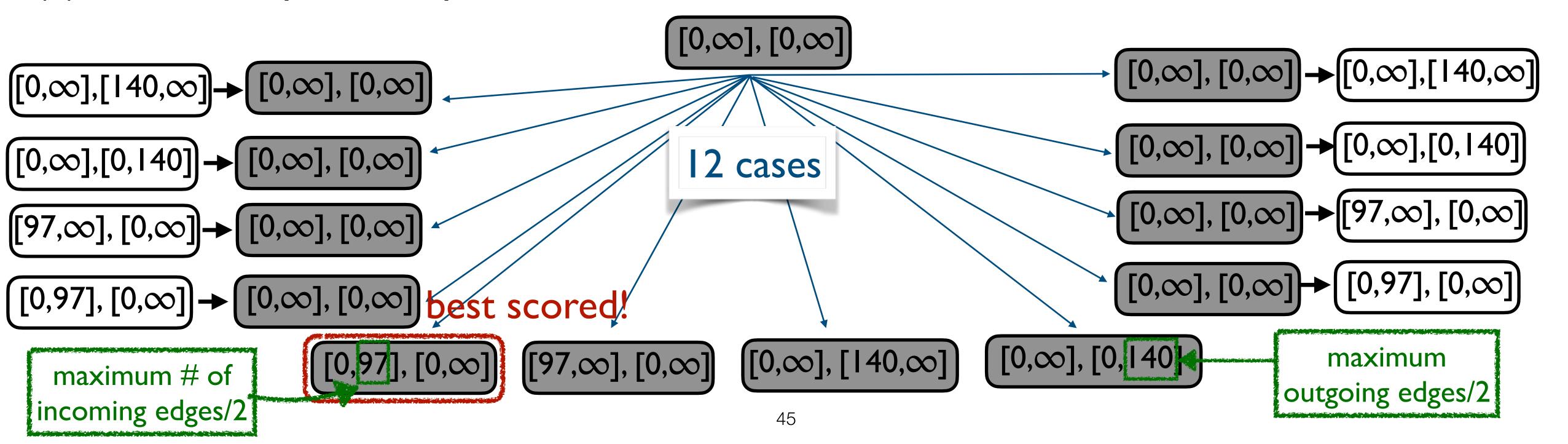
The number of nodes chosen by f

(I) Starts from the most general feature f:

$$\left[[0,\infty], [0,\infty] \right]$$

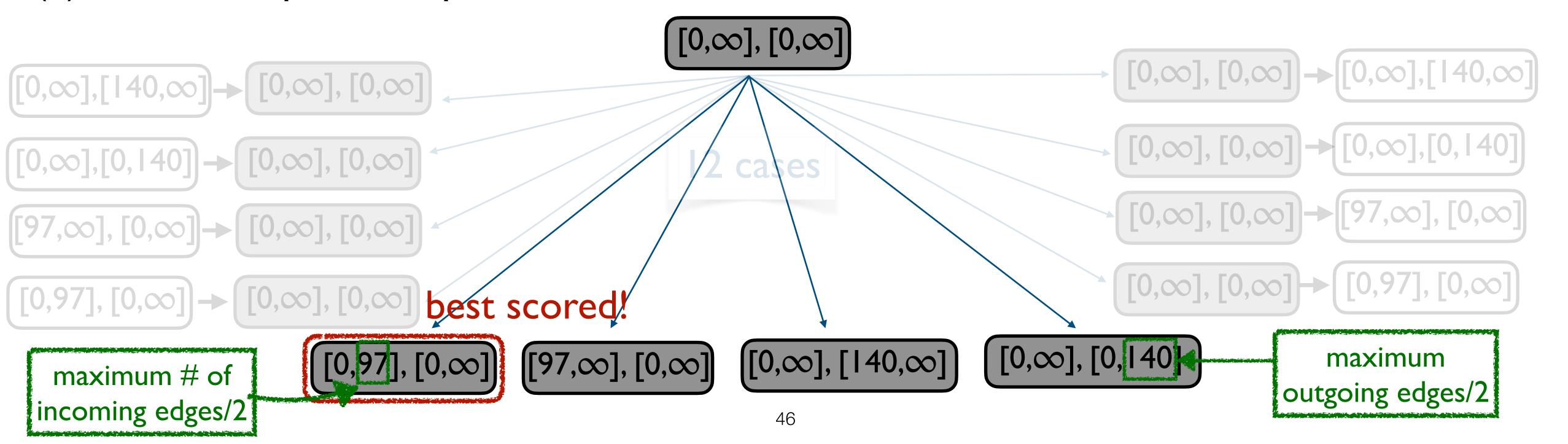
(I) Starts from the most general feature f:

$$[0,\infty],[0,\infty]$$



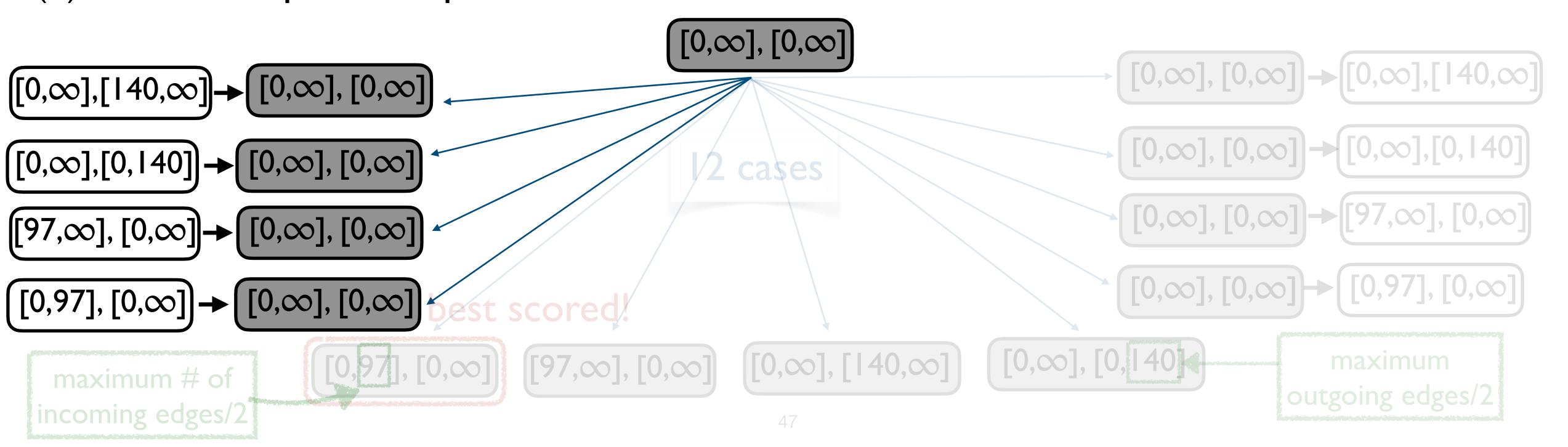
(I) Starts from the most general feature f:

$$[0,\infty],[0,\infty]$$



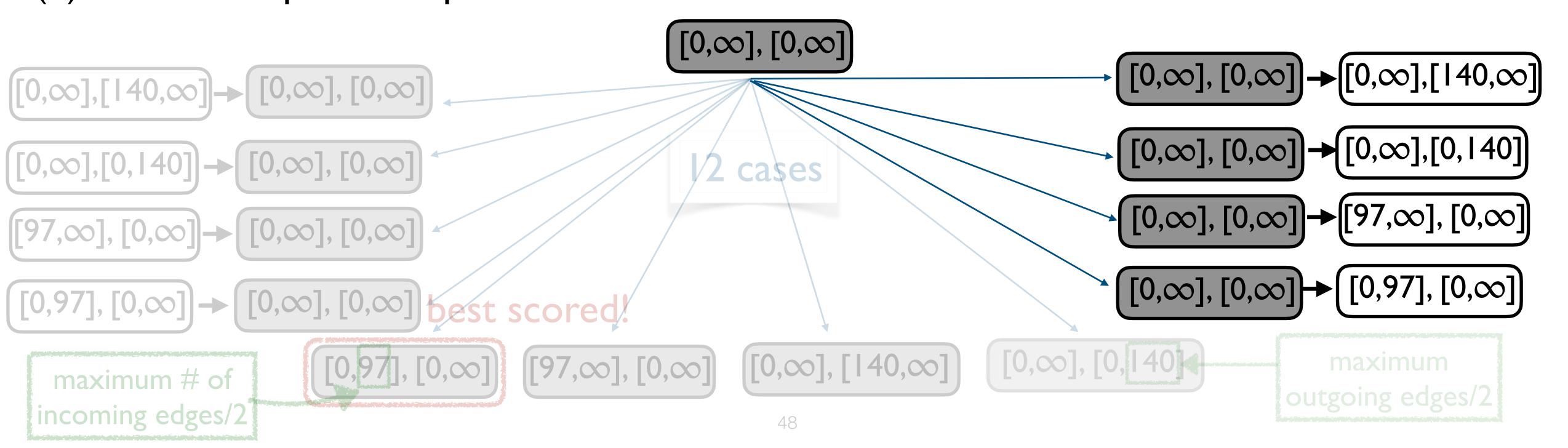
(I) Starts from the most general feature f:

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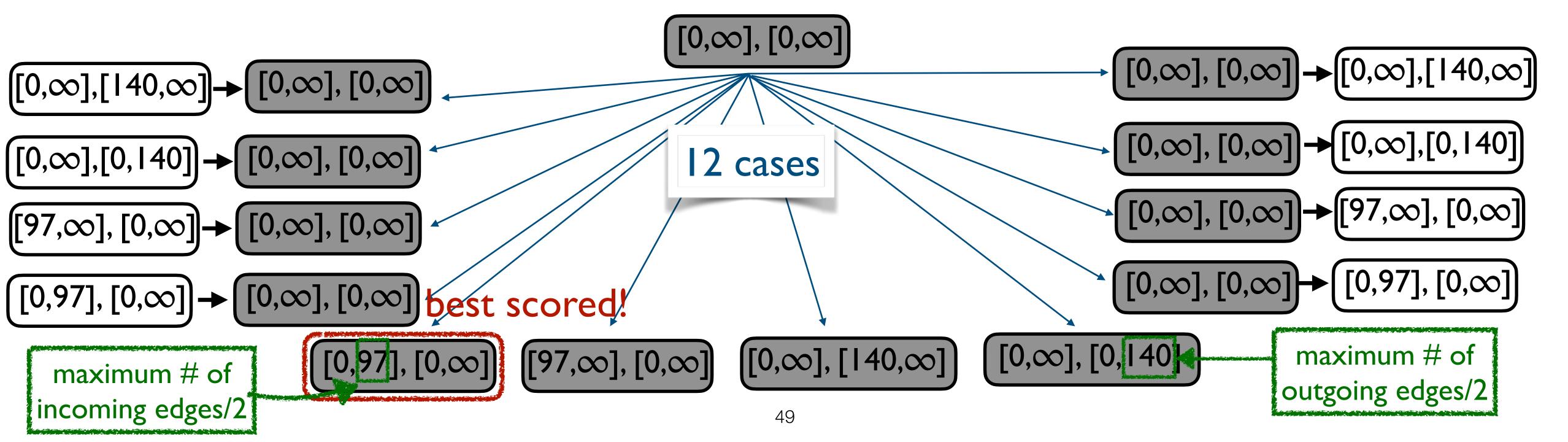
(I) Starts from the most general feature f:

$$[0,\infty],[0,\infty]$$



(I) Starts from the most general feature f:

$$[0,\infty],[0,\infty]$$



(I) Starts from the most general feature f:

$$[0,\infty],[0,\infty]$$

(2) Enumerate possible specified features from f and choose the best scored one:

$$[0,97], [0,\infty]$$
 score : 0.06

(3) Repeat (2) until the specified feature has a better score than a hyper-parameter γ :

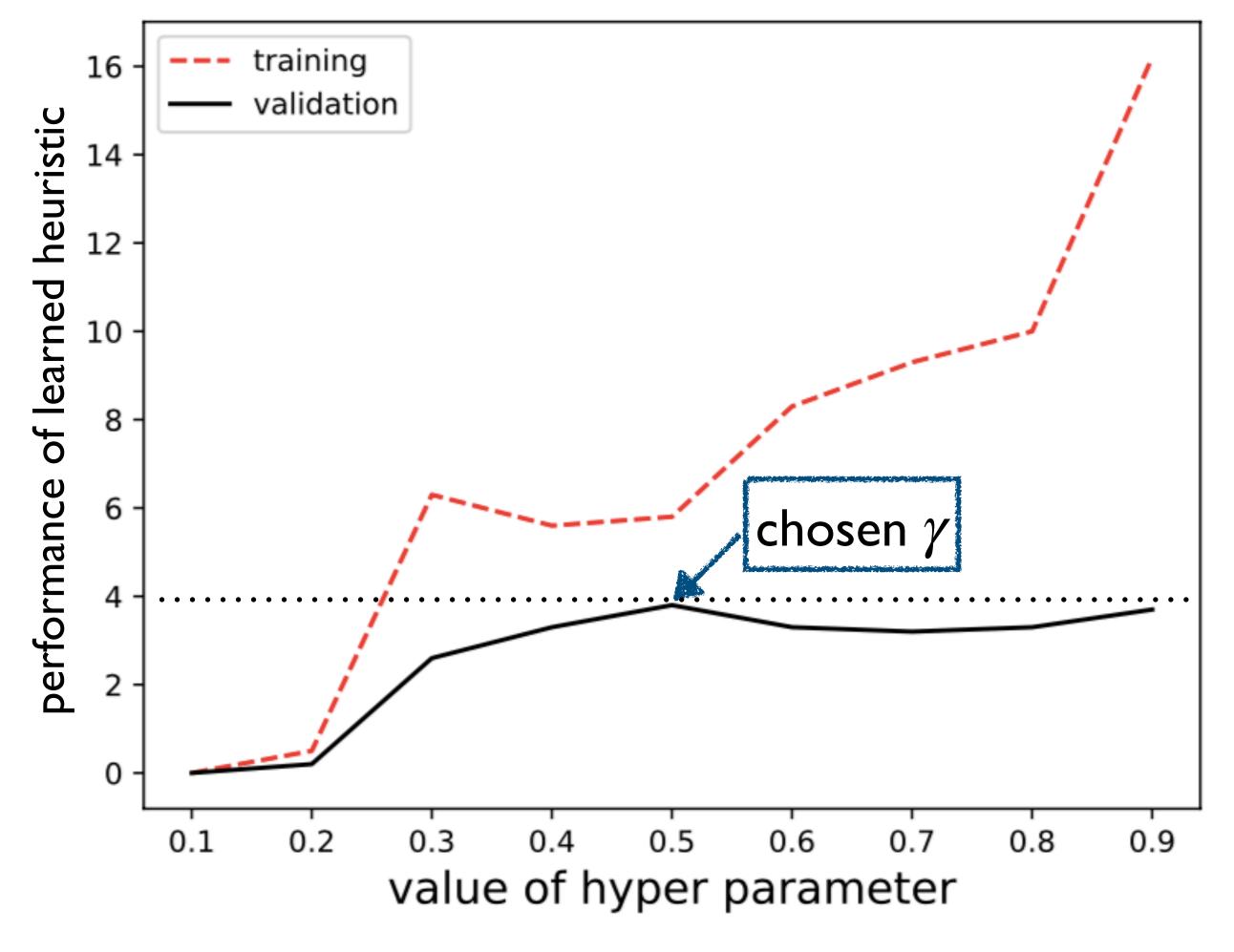
[0,48], [0,∞] → [97,∞], [140,∞] >
$$\gamma$$
 (= 0.5) score : 0.55

(I) Starts from th

• Too high value of γ results overfitting



(3) Repeat (2) un



scored one:

'perparameter γ :

(I) Starts from the most general feature f:

$$[0,\infty],[0,\infty]$$

(2) Enumerate possible specified features from f and chose the best scored one:

$$[0,97],[0,\infty]$$

(3) Repeat (2) until the specified feature has a better score than a hyper-parameter γ :

$$[0,48],[0,\infty] \rightarrow [97,\infty],[140,\infty] > \gamma (0.5)$$

(4) Relabel the nodes chosen from the feature (e.g., ()).

(I) Starts from the most general feature f:

$$[0,\infty],[0,\infty]$$

(2) Enumerate possible specified features from f and chose the best scored one:

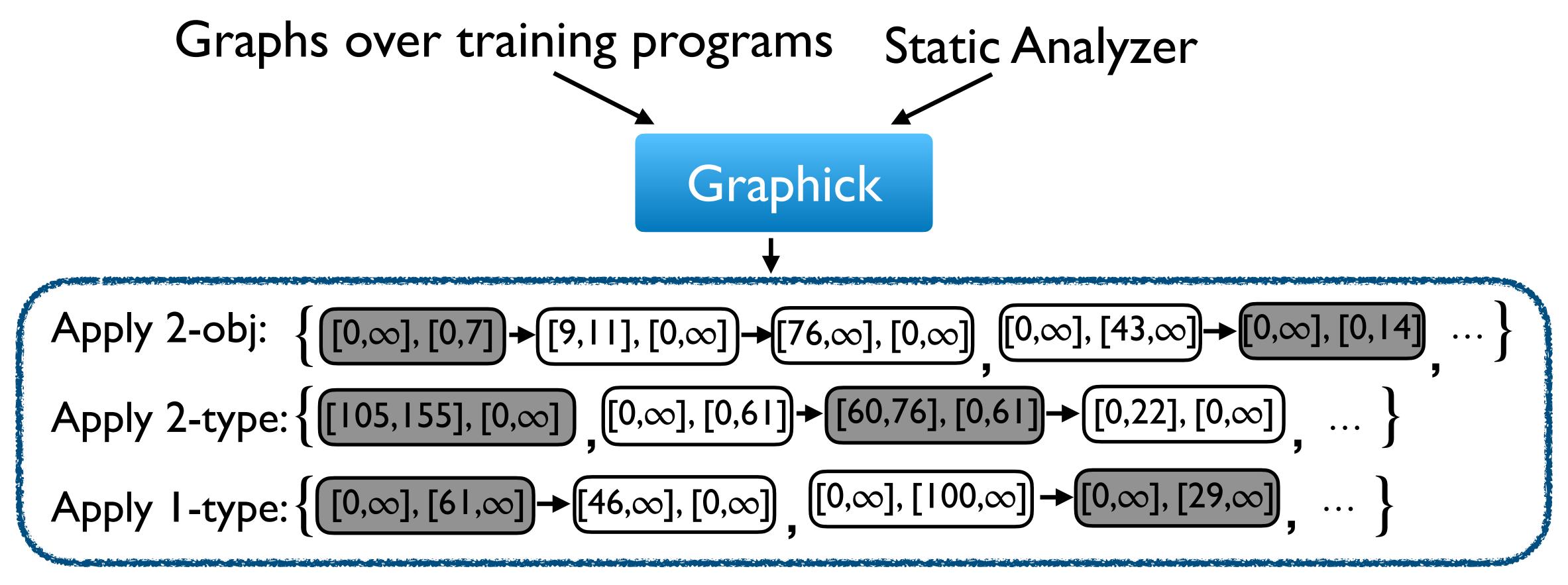
$$[0,97],[0,\infty]$$

(3) Repeat (2) until the specified feature has a better score than a hyper-parameter γ :

$$\boxed{[0,48],[0,\infty]} \rightarrow \boxed{[97,\infty],[140,\infty]} > \gamma (0.5)$$

- (4) Relabel the nodes chosen from the feature (e.g., ()).
- (5) Repeat (1) \sim (4) until all the labeled nodes are covered.

Our Framework: Graphick



Automatically generated graph-based heuristic

Experiments

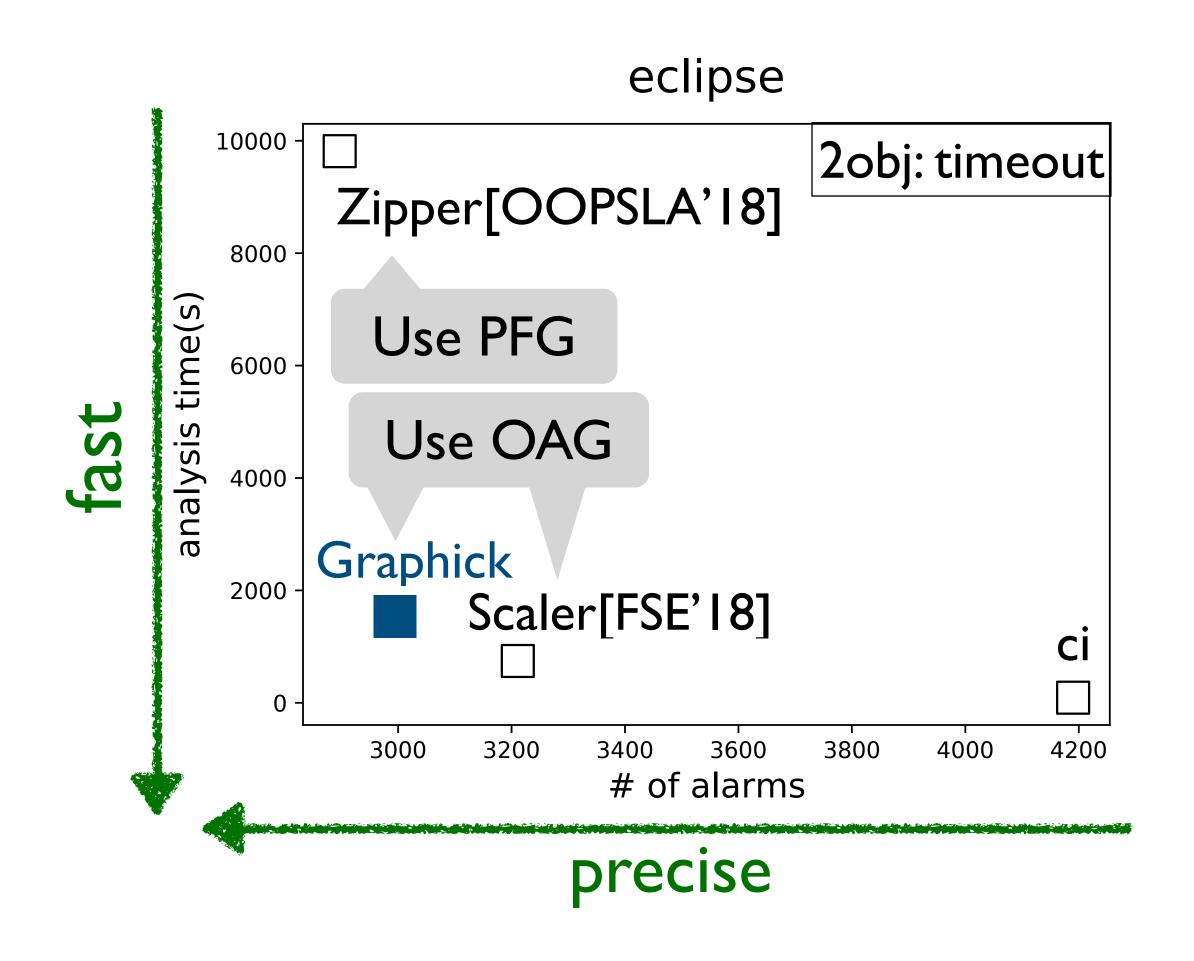
Settings

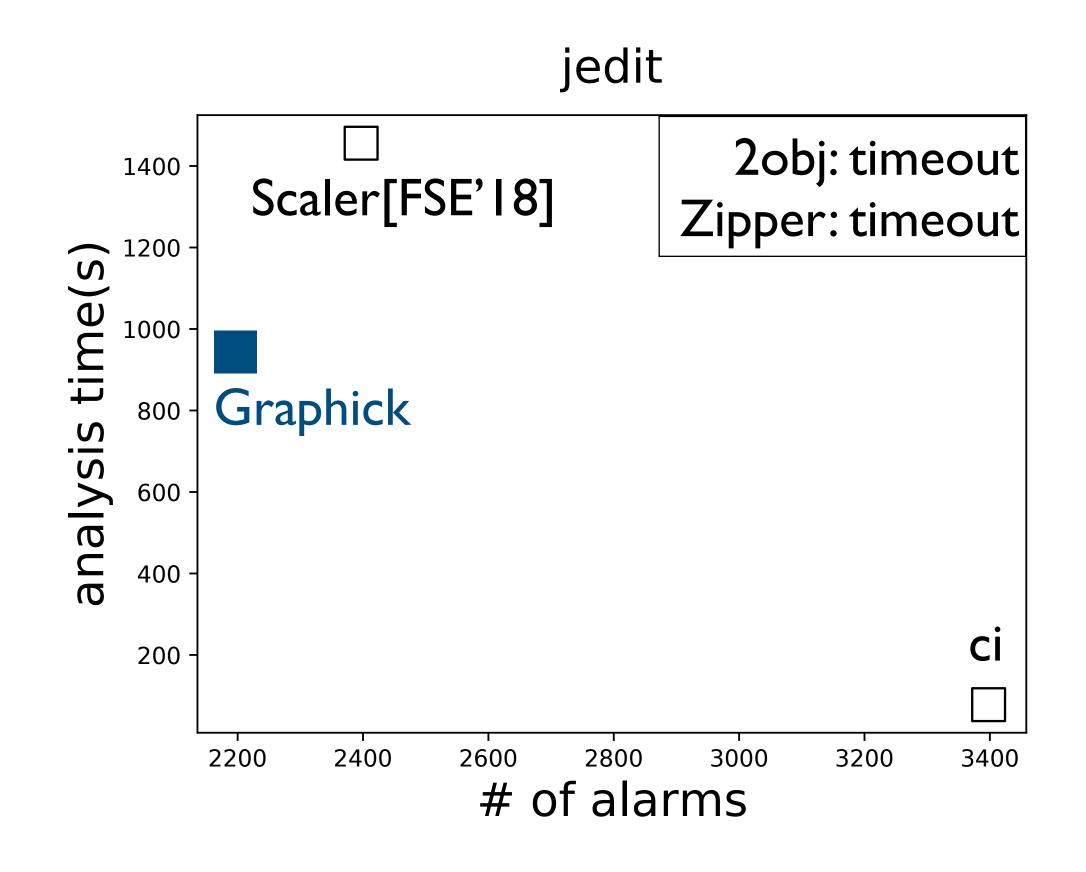
- Doop:
 - State-of-the-art Java pointer analyzer

- Heuristic instances:
 - Context sensitivity heuristic (we trained heuristic with 3 small programs)
 - Heap abstraction heuristic (we trained heuristic with 4 small programs)

Comparison to Graph-based Context Sensitivity Heuristics

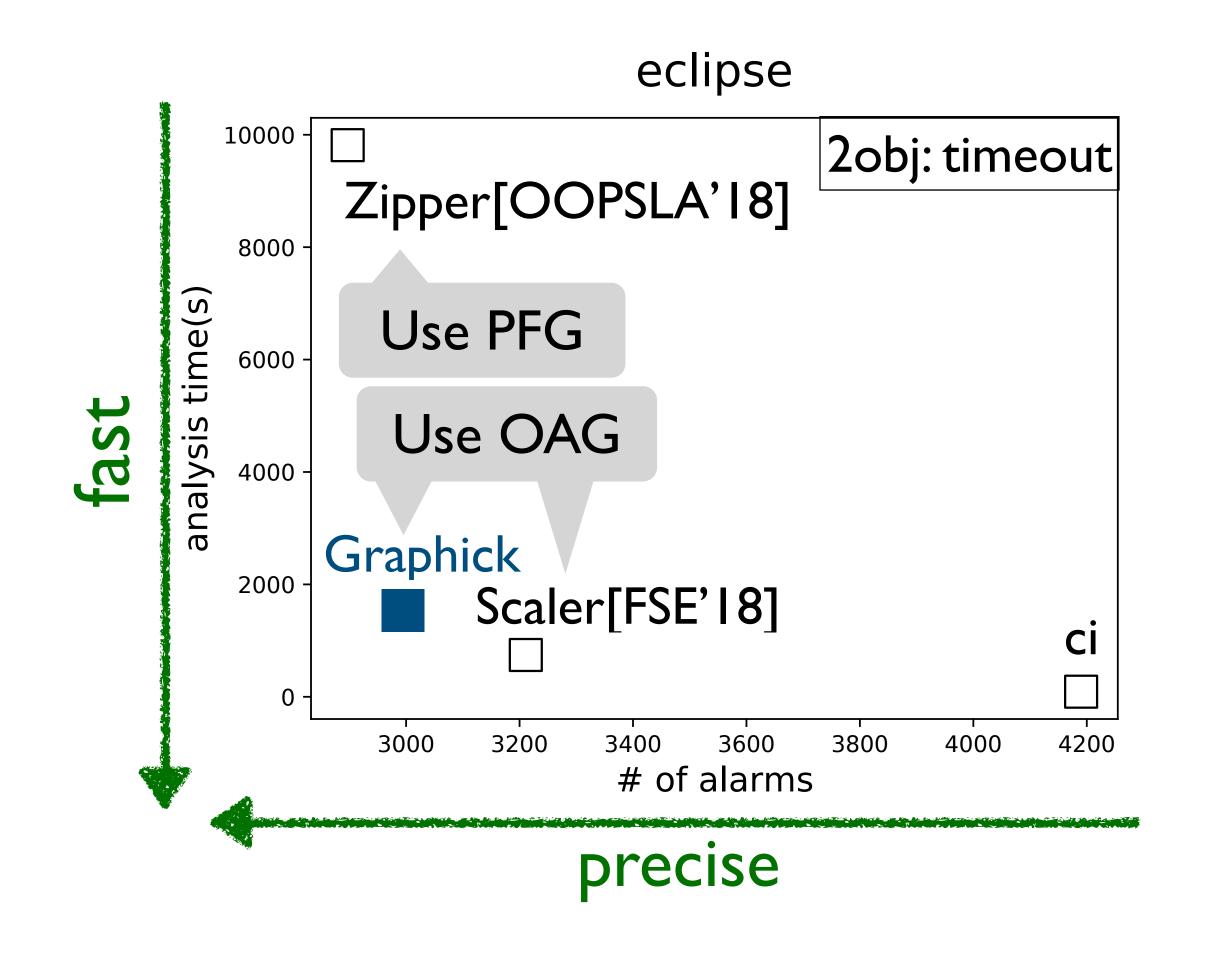
- We use OAG, used in Scaler, to produce a context sensitivity heuristic
- From OAG, Graphick produces a competitive context-sensitivity heuristic

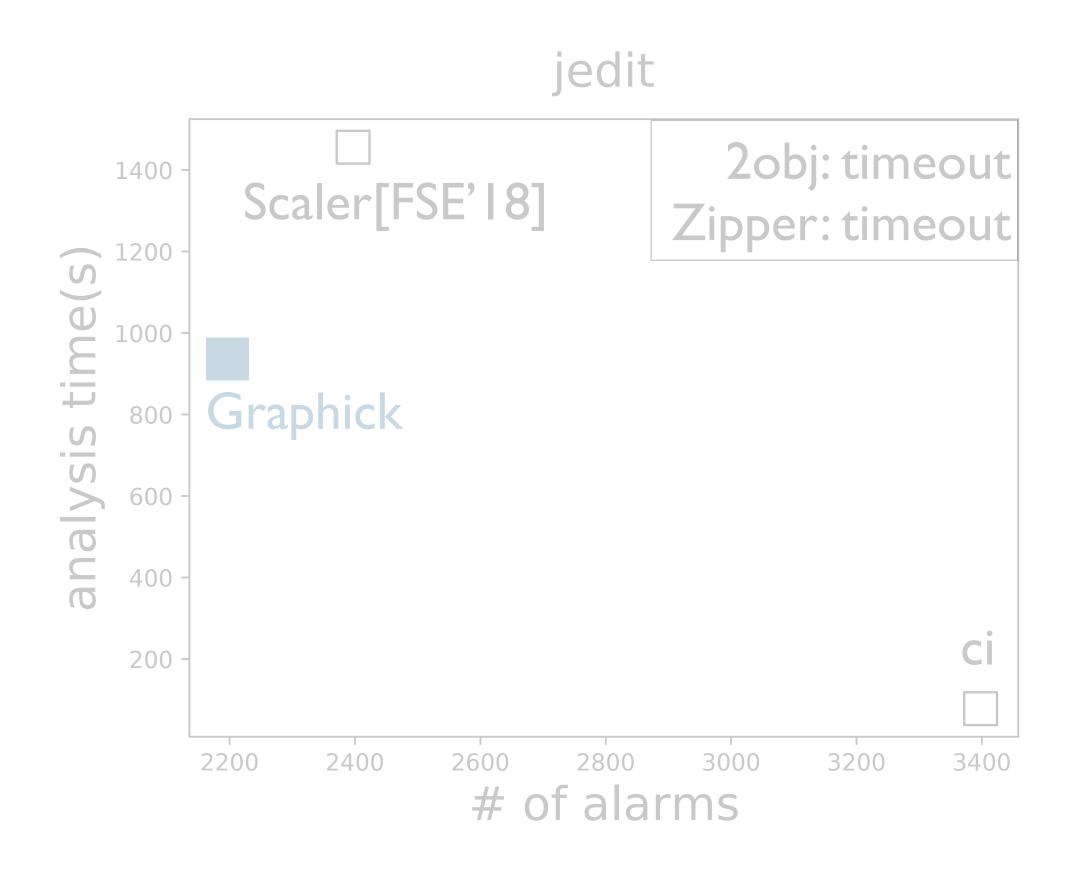




Comparison to Graph-based Context Sensitivity Heuristics

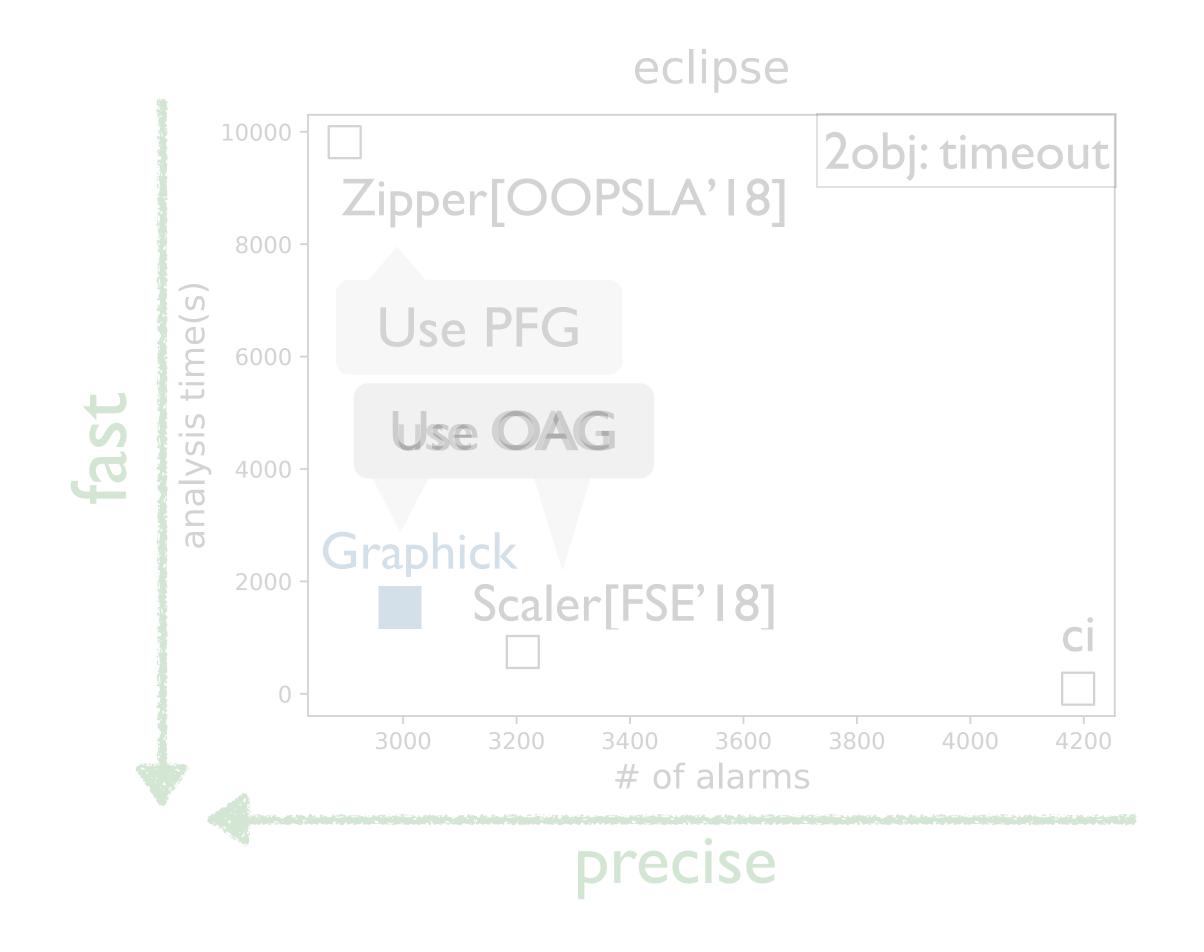
- We use OAG, used in Scaler, to produce a context sensitivity heuristic
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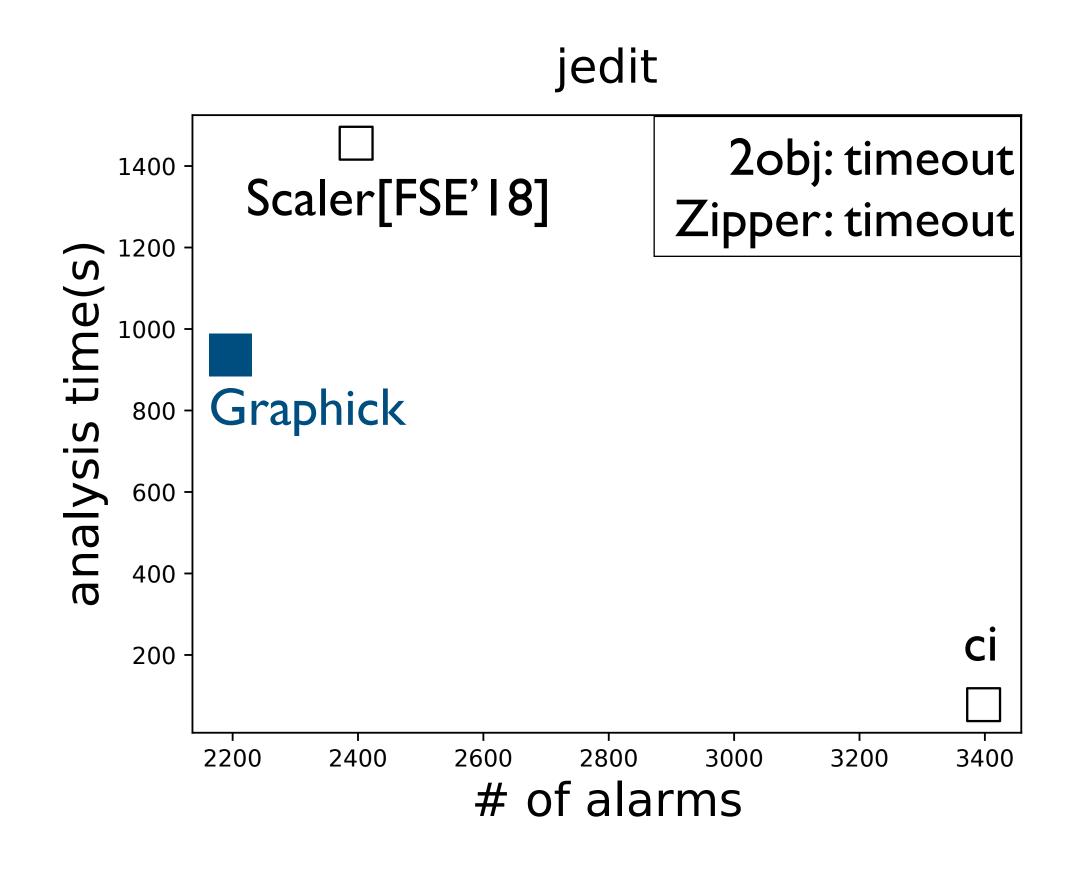




Comparison to Graph-based Context Sensitivity Heuristics

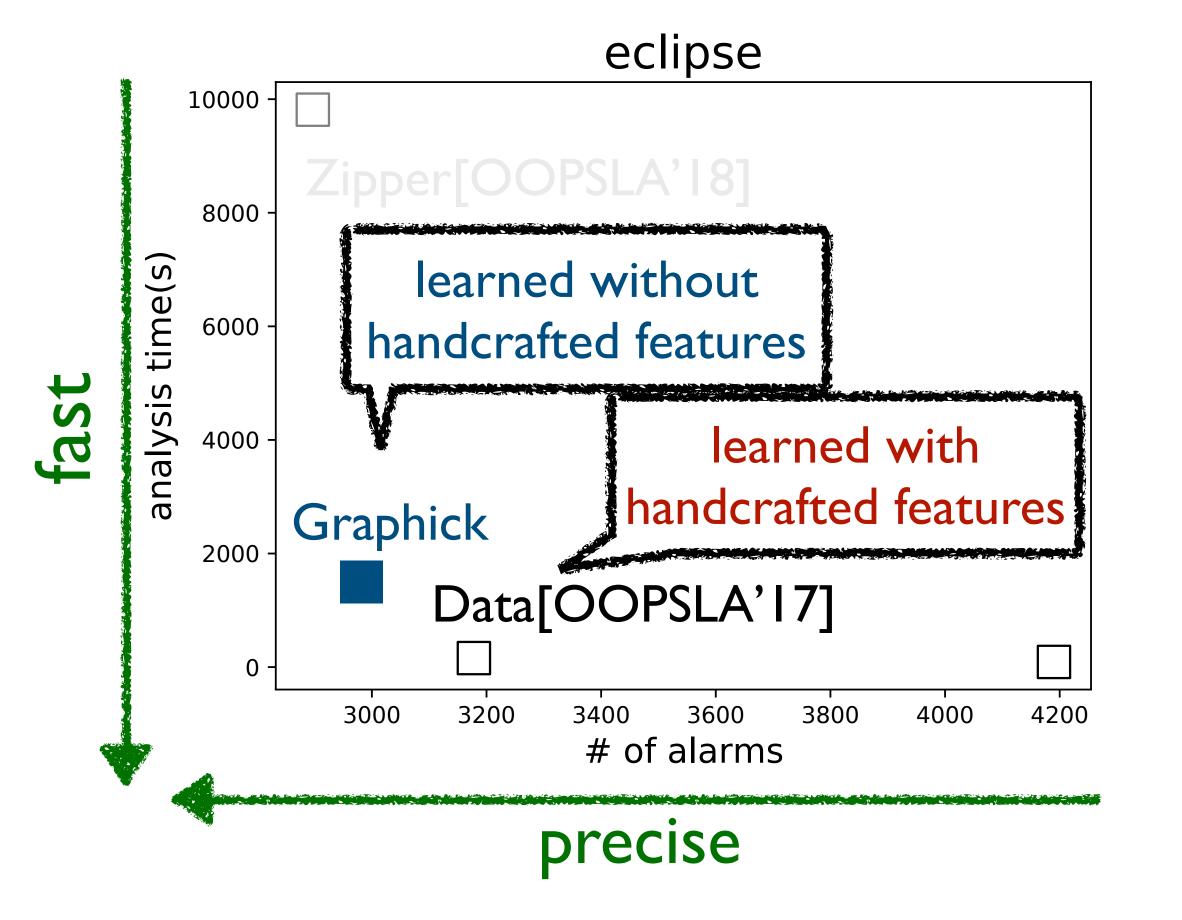
- We use OAG, used in Scaler, to produce a context sensitivity heuristic
- From OAG, Graphick produces a competitive context-sensitivity heuristic

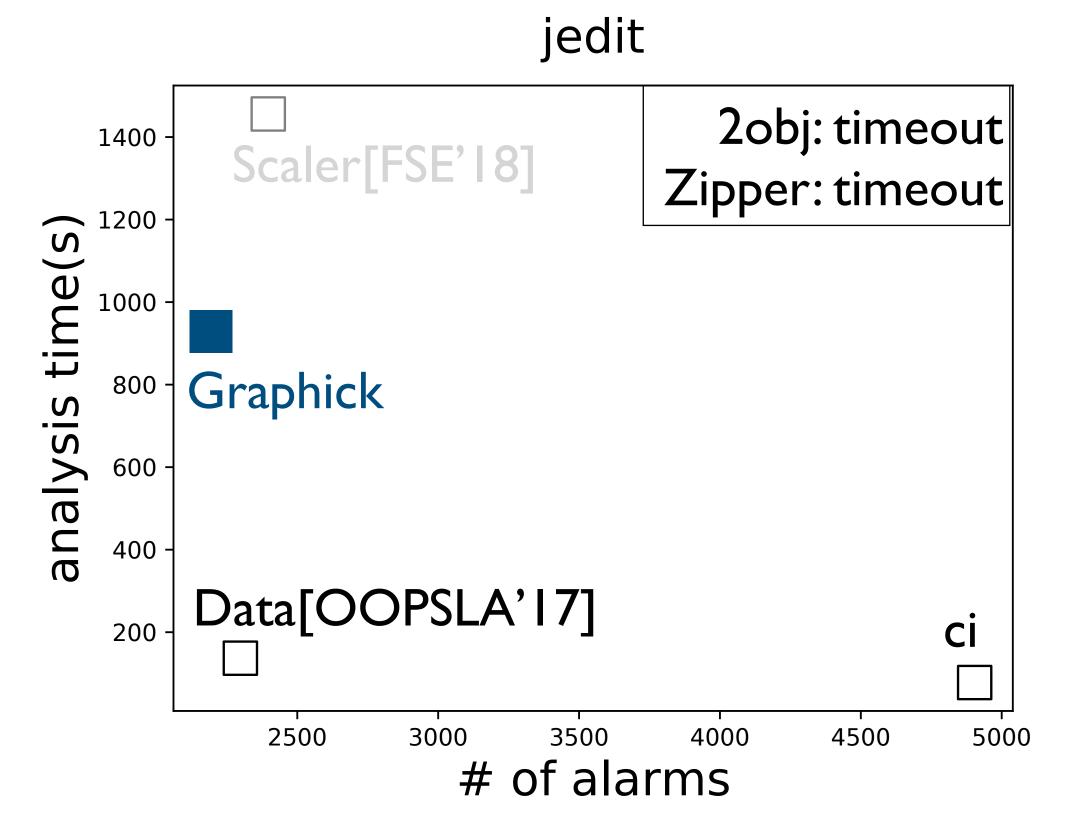




Comparison to a Previous Data-driven Context Sensitivity Heuristic

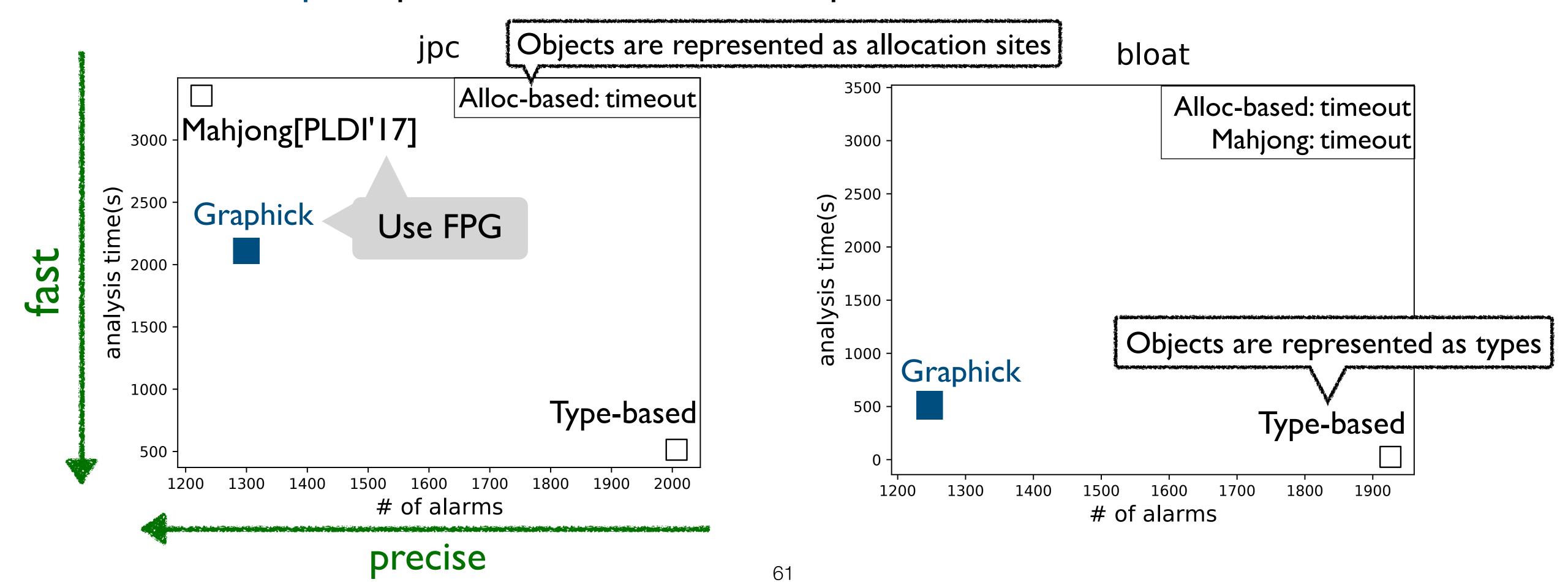
- Comparison with a data-driven context-sensitivity heuristic learned with handcrafted features
- Without handcrafted features, Graphick produces a competitive context-sensitivity heuristic





Comparison to Heap Abstraction Heuristics

- We use field-points-to graph (FPG), used in Mahjong, to produce heap abstraction heuristic
- From FPG, Graphick produces cost-effective heap-abstraction heuristic



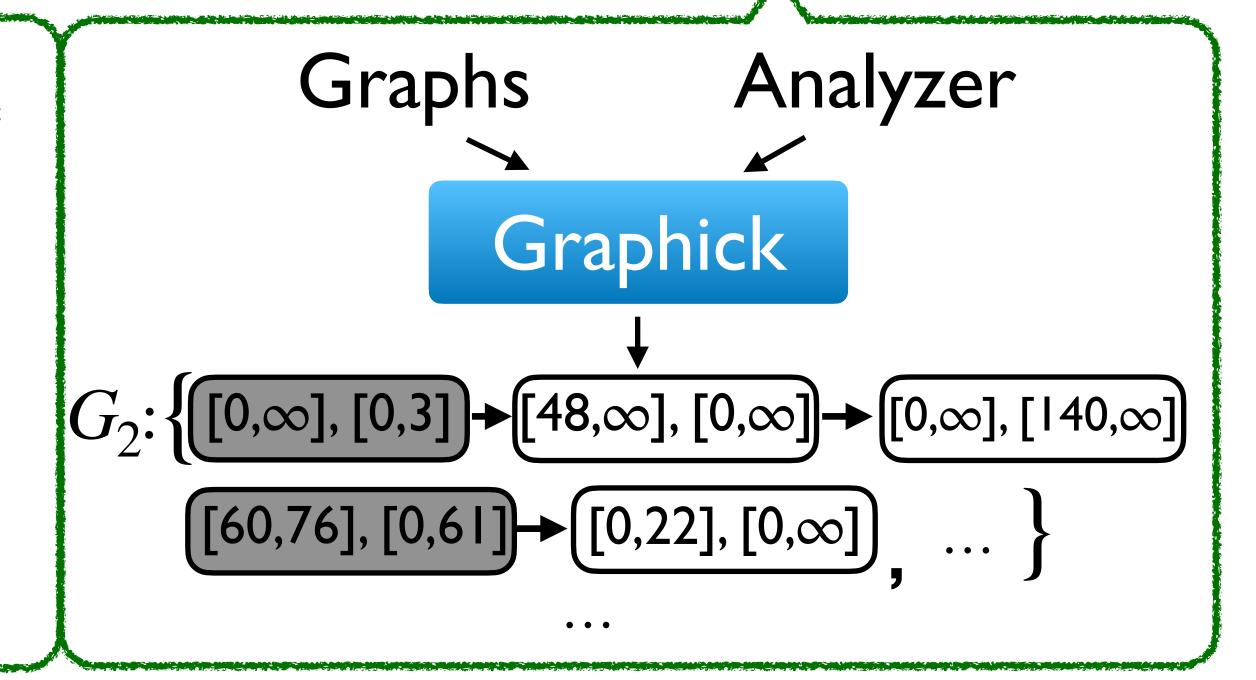
Summary

- We made Graphick to automatically generate graph-based analysis heuristics
 - Two key ideas are our feature description language and learning algorithm

Feature =
$$\widehat{Node}^* \times \widehat{Node} \times \widehat{Node}^*$$

$$\widehat{Node} = Itv \times Itv$$

$$Itv = \{[a,b] \mid a \in \mathbb{N}, b \in \mathbb{N} \cup \infty, \}$$



Thank you