

Verifying Bit-Manipulations of Floating-Point

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Stanford University

PLDI 2016

This Talk

- Example:

e^x

mathematical
specification

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floating-point implementation

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- Goal: Bound the **difference** between spec and implementation

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- Key contribution: Verify binaries that mix floating-point and **bit-level operations**

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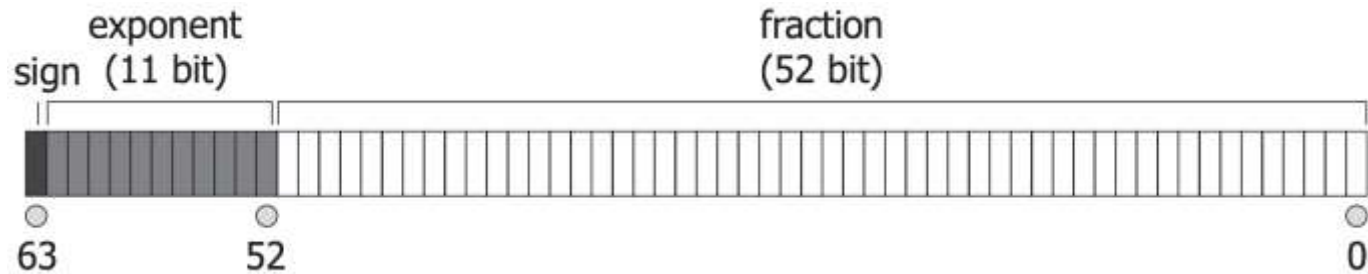
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floating-point implementation

- Goal: Bound the **difference** between spec and implementation
- Key contribution: Verify binaries that mix floating-point and **bit-level operations**
 - Intel's implementations of transcendental functions

Floating-Point Numbers

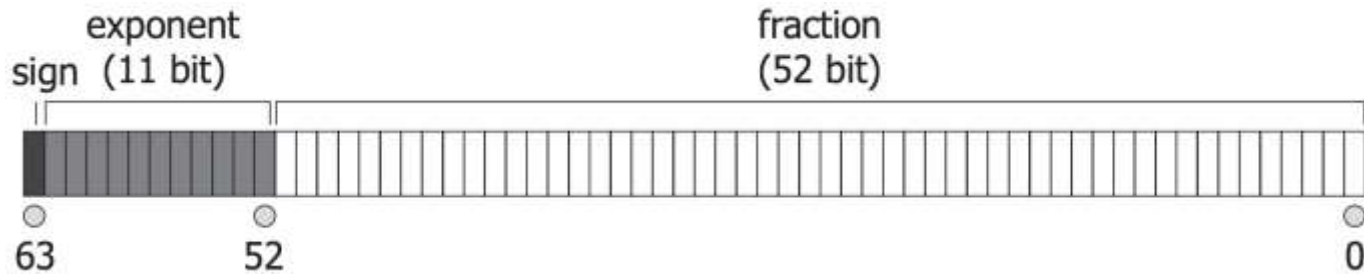


• Example:

$$= (-1)^1 \cdot 2^{1023-1023} \cdot 1.110\dots00_{(2)}$$

The diagram shows the bit-level interpretation of this example. The sign bit (1) is highlighted in purple. The exponent field (01111111111) is highlighted in blue, with a box around the value 1023. The fraction field (1100...00) is highlighted in green, with a box around the value 1.110...00.

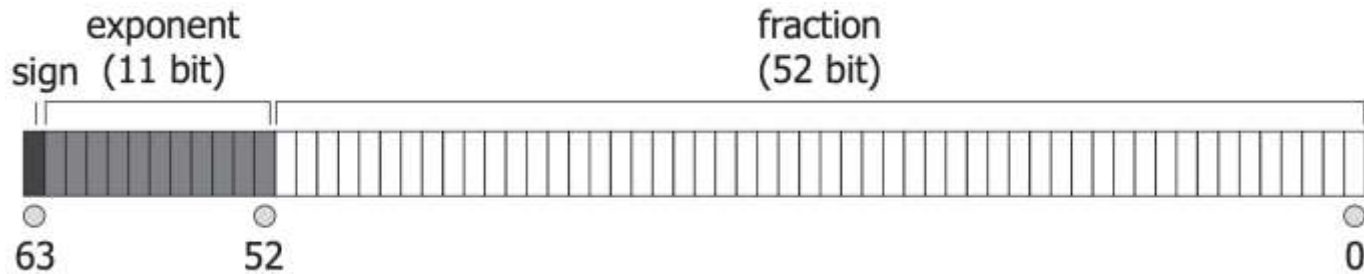
Floating-Point Numbers



- Example:

$$\begin{array}{c}
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 \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\
 = (-1)^{\boxed{1}} \cdot 2^{\boxed{1023}-1023} \cdot 1.\boxed{110\dots00}_{(2)}
 \end{array}$$
- Automatic reasoning about floating-point is not easy
 - have **rounding errors**
 - don't obey some algebraic rules of real numbers
 - Associativity: $1 + (10^{30} - 10^{30}) = 1 \neq 0 = (1 + 10^{30}) - 10^{30}$

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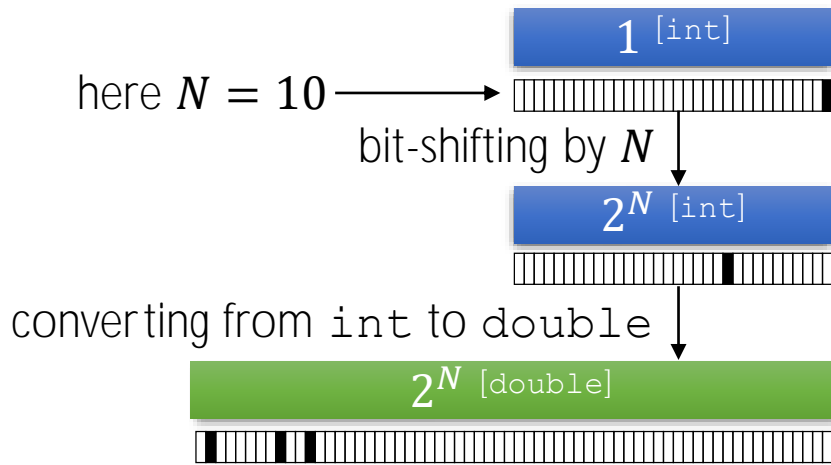
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 - don't obey some algebraic rules of real numbers
 - Associativity: $1 + (10^{30} - 10^{30}) = 1 \neq 0 = (1 + 10^{30}) - 10^{30}$
- It becomes much harder if **bit-level operations** are used

Bit-Level Operations

- Example: Given N (in `int`), compute 2^N (in `double`)

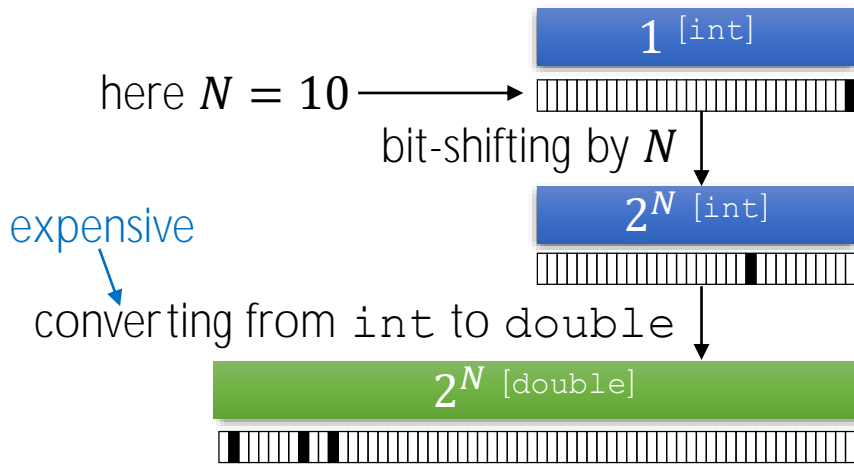
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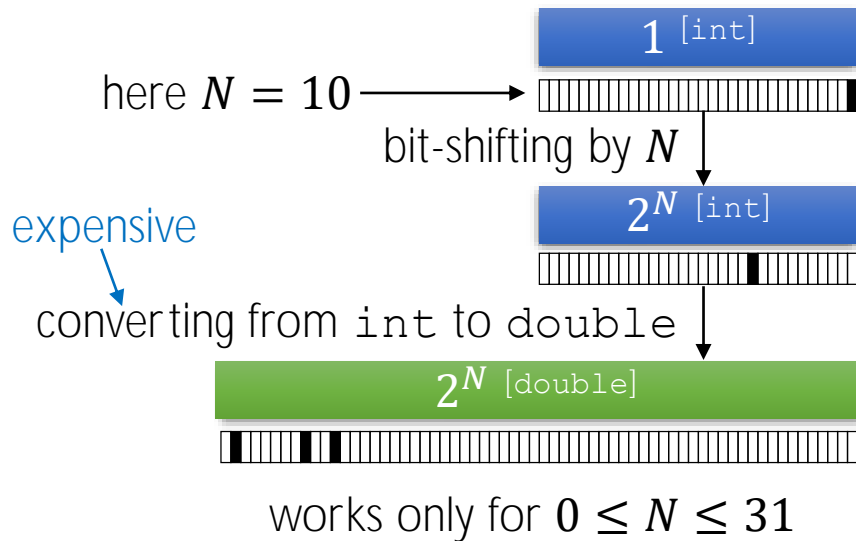
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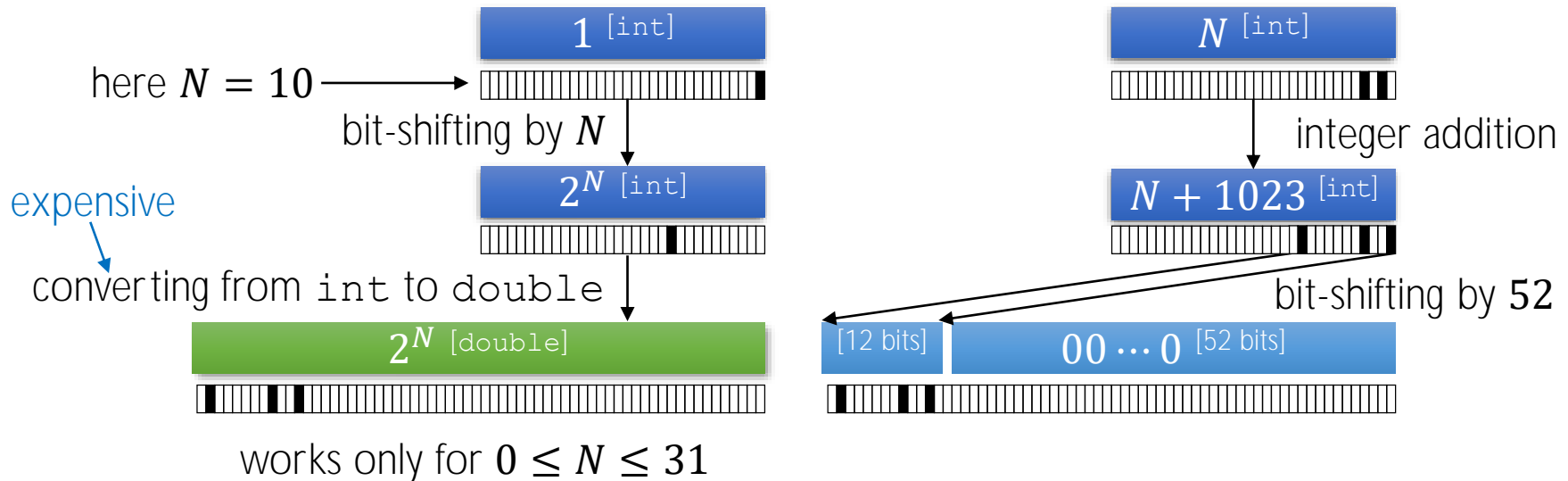
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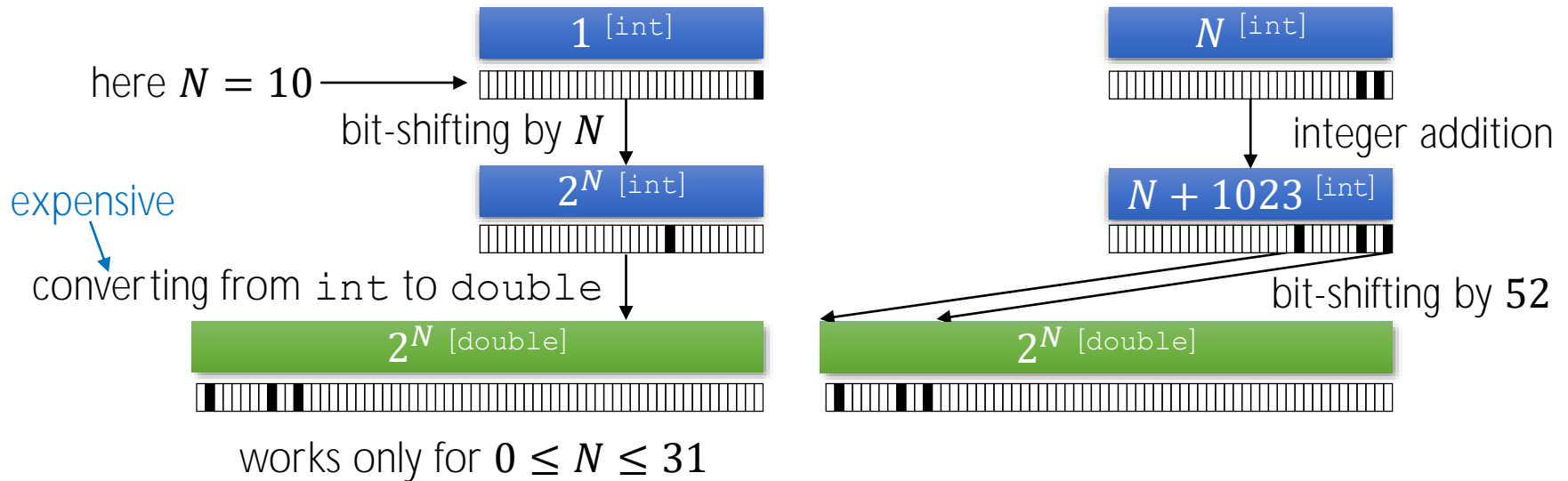
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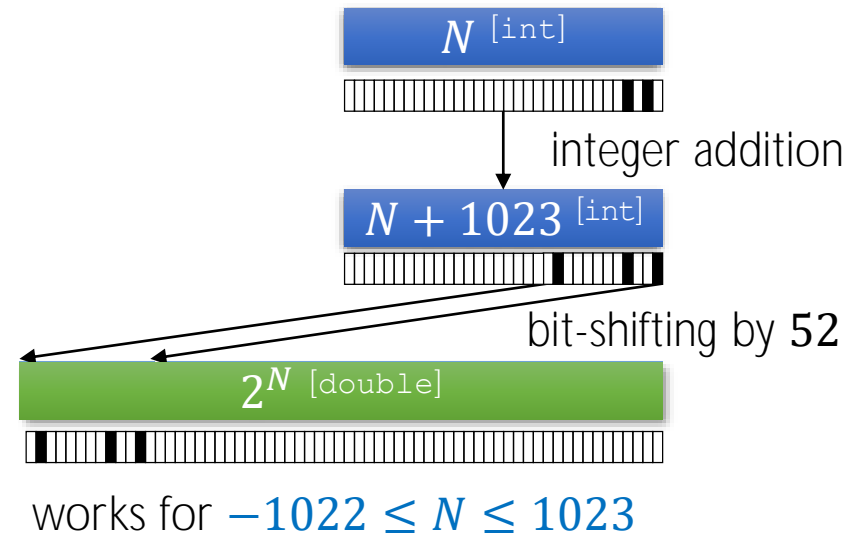
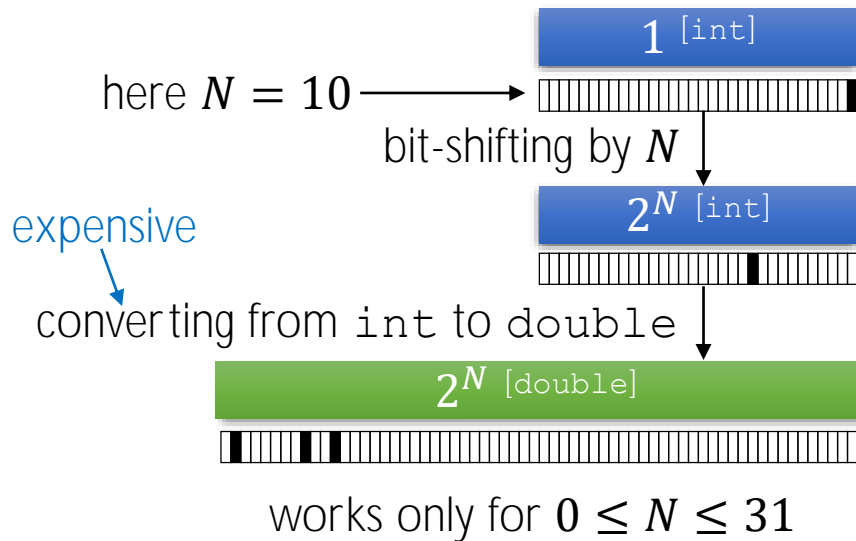
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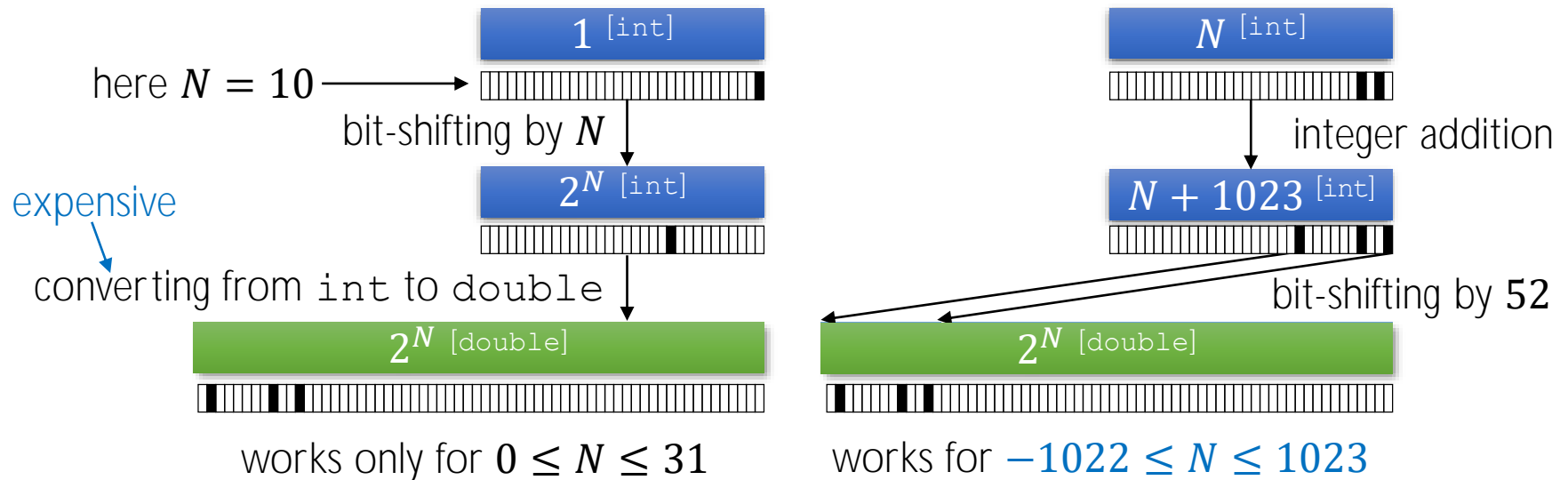
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- Such bit-manipulations are **ubiquitous** in highly optimized floating-point implementations
- If a code **mixes** floating-point and bit-level operations, reasoning about the code is difficult

Problem Statement

$$e^x$$

mathematical
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$$f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

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binary P that mixes floating-point
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input range $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}$



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- Goal: Find a small $\Theta > 0$ such that

$$\left| \frac{f(x) - P(x)}{f(x)} \right| \leq \Theta \text{ for all } x \in X$$

- i.e., prove a bound on the maximum precision loss

Possible Alternatives

- Exhaustive testing
 - feasible for 32-bit float: ~ **30** seconds (with **1** core for `sinf`)
 - **infeasible** for 64-bit double: > **4000** years (= **30** seconds $\times 2^{32}$)

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 - Harrison used HOL Light to prove Intel's transcendental functions are very accurate [FMCAD'00]
 - “The construction of these proofs often requires **considerable persistence.**” [FMSSD'00]

Possible Automatic Alternatives

- If **only** floating-point operations are used, various automatic techniques can be applied
 - e.g., Astree [PLDI'03], Fluctuat [FMICS'09], ROSA [POPL'14], FPTaylor [FM'15]
- Several commercial tools (e.g., Astree, Fluctuat) can handle certain bit-trick routines

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- Several commercial tools (e.g., Astree, Fluctuat) can handle certain bit-trick routines
- We are unaware of a general technique for verifying **mixed** floating-point and bit-level code

Our Method

e^x Explained

1	vmovddup	%xmm0,	%xmm0
2	vmulpd	L2E,	%xmm0, %xmm2
3	vroundpd	\$0,	%xmm2, %xmm2
4	vcvtpd2dqx	%xmm2,	%xmm3
5	vpadd	B,	%xmm3, %xmm3
6	vpslld	\$20,	%xmm3, %xmm3
7	vpshufd	\$114,	%xmm3, %xmm3
8	vmulpd	C1,	%xmm2, %xmm1
9	vmulpd	C2,	%xmm2, %xmm2
10	vaddpd	%xmm1,	%xmm0, %xmm1
11	vaddpd	%xmm2,	%xmm1, %xmm1
12	vmovapd	T1,	%xmm0
13	vmulpd	T12,	%xmm1, %xmm2
14	vaddpd	T11,	%xmm2, %xmm2
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36	vaddpd	%xmm0,	%xmm1, %xmm0
37	vmulpd	%xmm3,	%xmm0, %xmm0
38	retq		

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$N = \text{round}(x \cdot \log_2 e)$

e^x Explained

1	vmovddup	%xmm0, %xmm0	← x
2	vmulpd	L2E, %xmm0, %xmm2	← $N = \text{round}(x \cdot \log_2 e)$
3	vroundpd	\$0, %xmm2, %xmm2	
4	vcvtq2dq	%xmm2, %xmm3	
5	vpaddq	B, %xmm3, %xmm3	← 2^N
6	vpsllq	\$20, %xmm3, %xmm3	
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2^N

$r = x - N \cdot \ln 2$

$$e^r \approx \sum_{i=0}^{12} \frac{r^i}{i!}$$

$e^x = e^{N \cdot \ln 2} \cdot e^r \approx 2^N \cdot e^r$

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$e^x = e^{N \cdot \ln 2} \cdot e^r \approx 2^N \cdot e^r$

Goal: Find a small $\Theta > 0$ such that

$$\left| \frac{e^x - 2^N e^r}{e^x} \right| \leq \Theta \text{ for all } x \in X$$

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 - A standard way to model rounding errors

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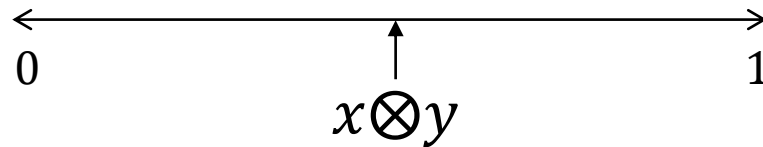
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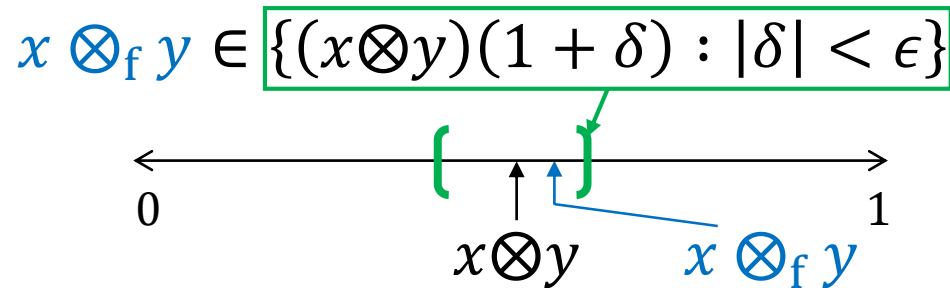
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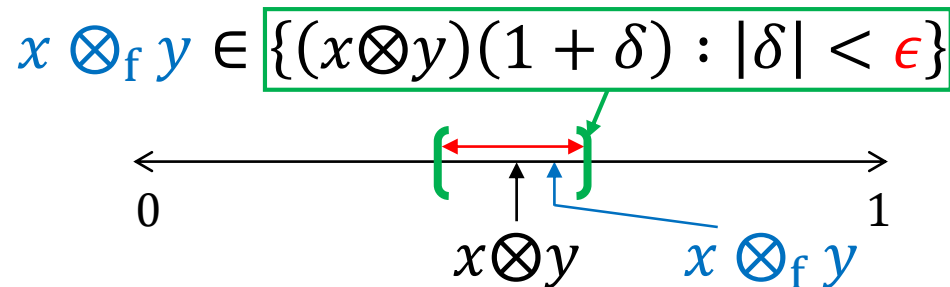
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- For 64-bit doubles, $\epsilon = 2^{-53}$
- This property has been used in previous automatic techniques (FPTaylor, ROSA, ...) for verifying floating-point programs

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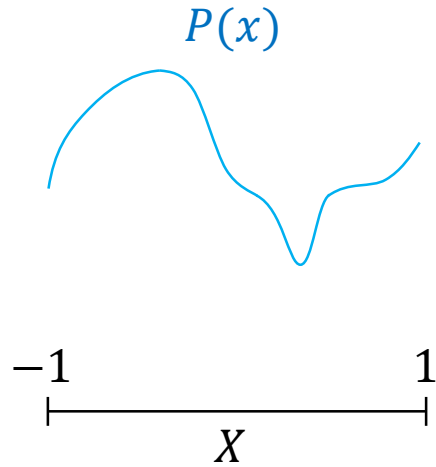
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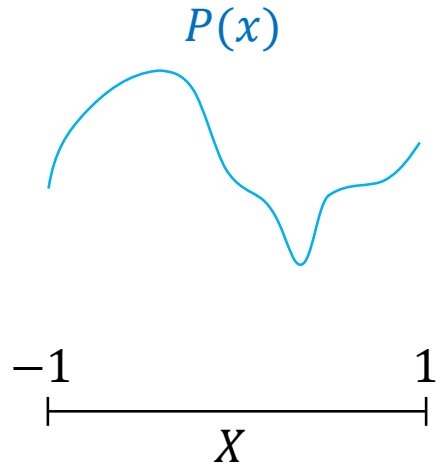
$$P(x) \in \{((2 \times x)(1 + \delta_1) + 3)(1 + \delta_2) : |\delta_1|, |\delta_2| < \epsilon\}$$

Our Method: Overview



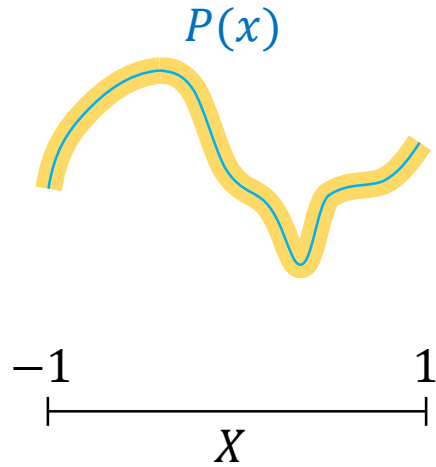
```
...  
vpslld  $20,    ...  
vpshufd $114,   ...  
vmulpd  C1,     ...  
vmulpd  C2,     ...  
...
```

Our Method: Overview



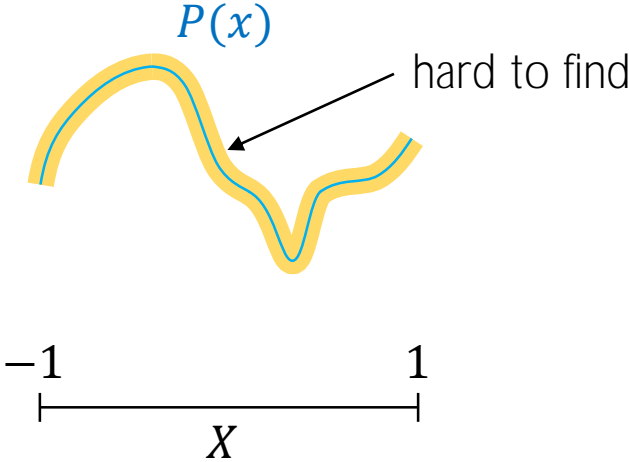
```
...  
vpslld $20, ...  
vshufd $114, ...  
vmulpd C1, ...  
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Our Method: Overview



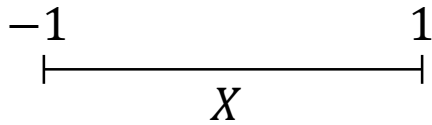
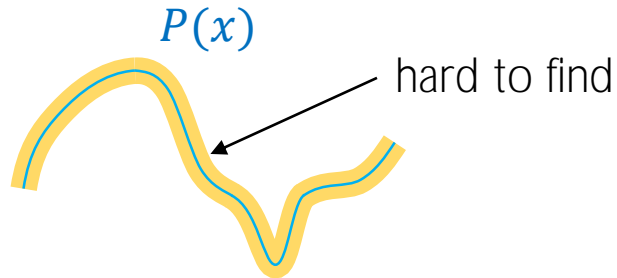
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vpslld $20, ...  
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Our Method: Overview



```
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```


Our Method: Overview

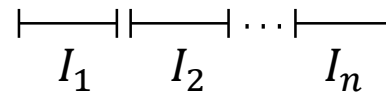
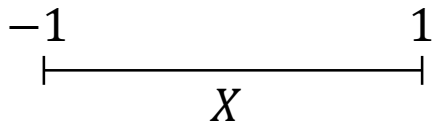
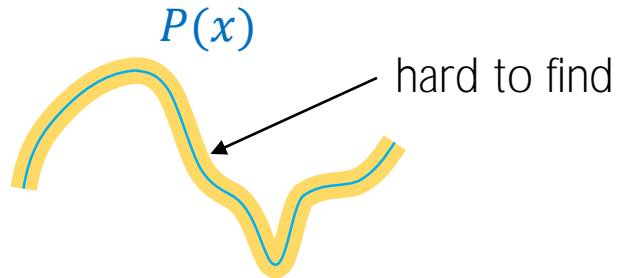


not "smooth"

```
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vpslld $20, ...  
vpslshufd $114, ...  
vmulpd C1, ...  
vmulpd C2, ...  
...
```

abstract using
"smooth" functions

Our Method: Overview

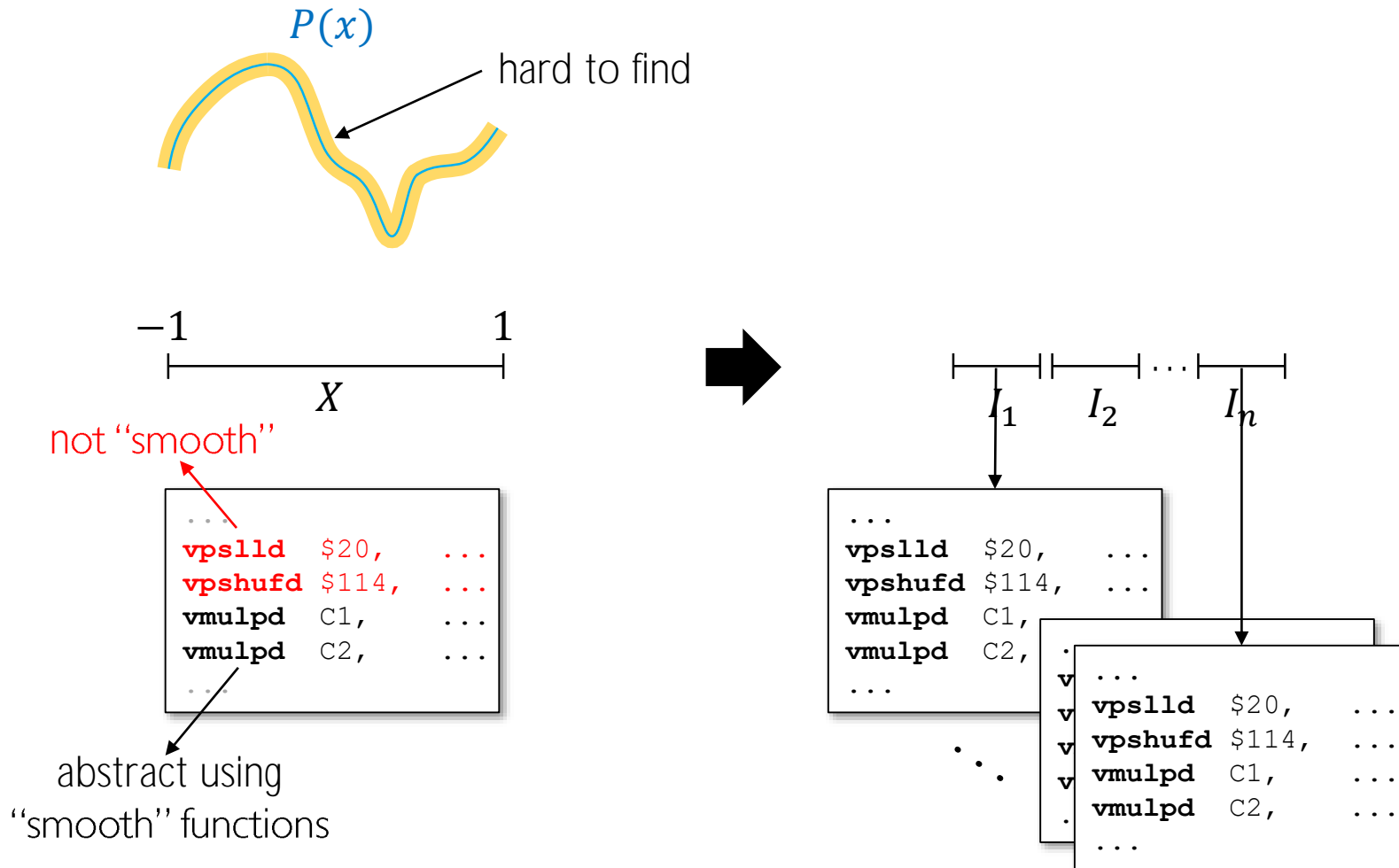


not "smooth"

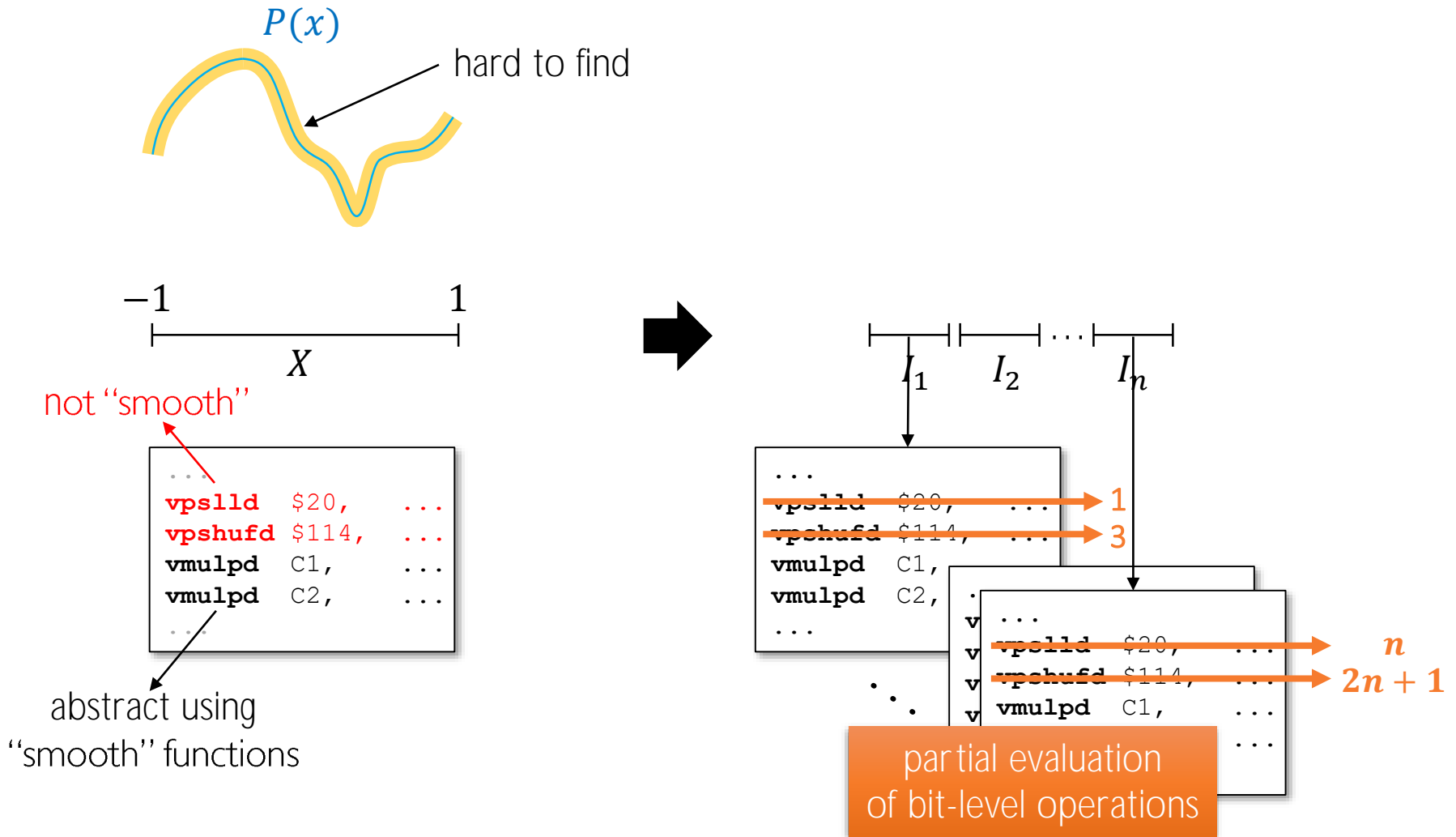
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vpslld $20, ...  
vpslhd $114, ...  
vmulpd C1, ...  
vmulpd C2, ...  
...
```

abstract using
"smooth" functions

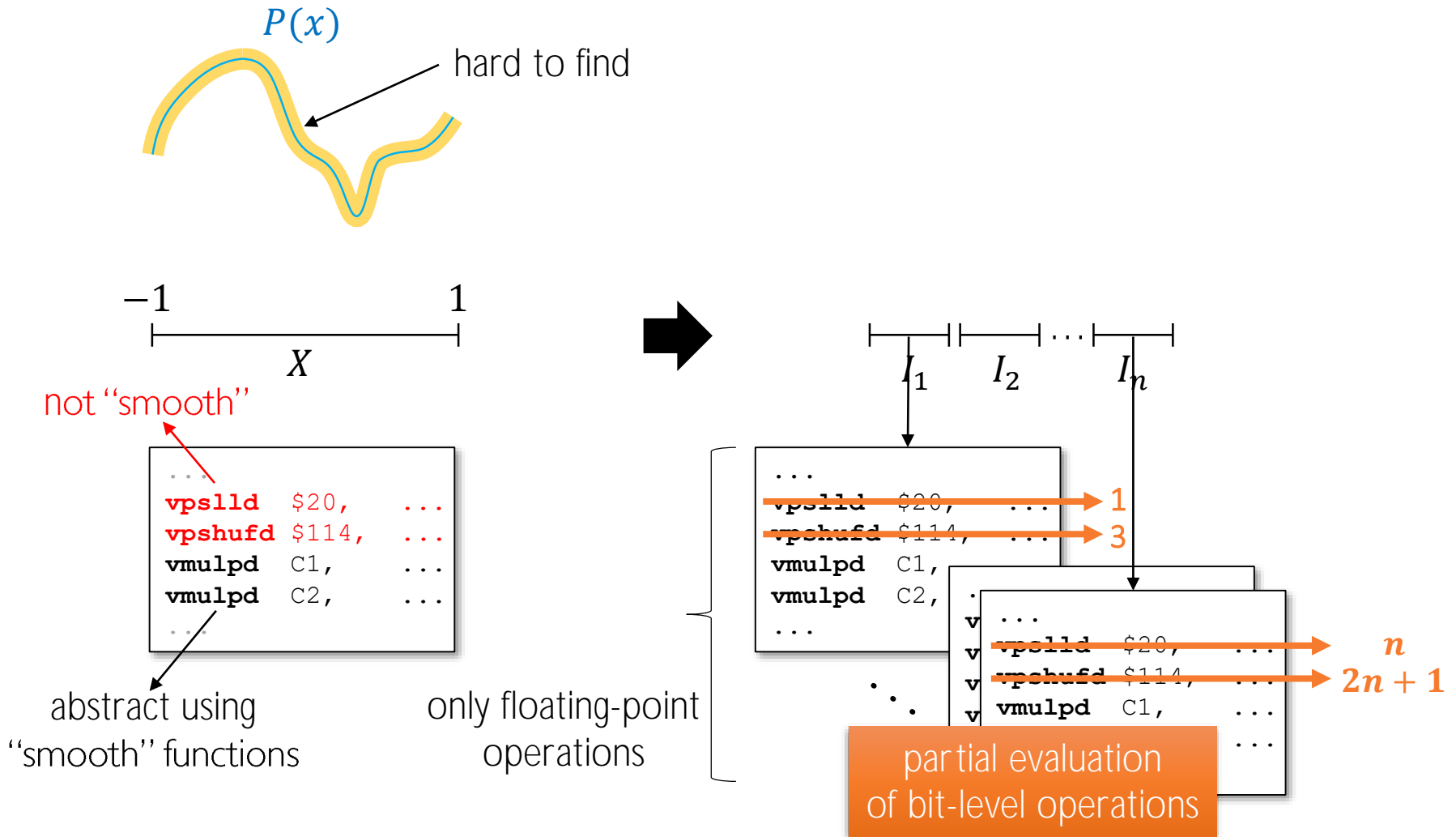
Our Method: Overview



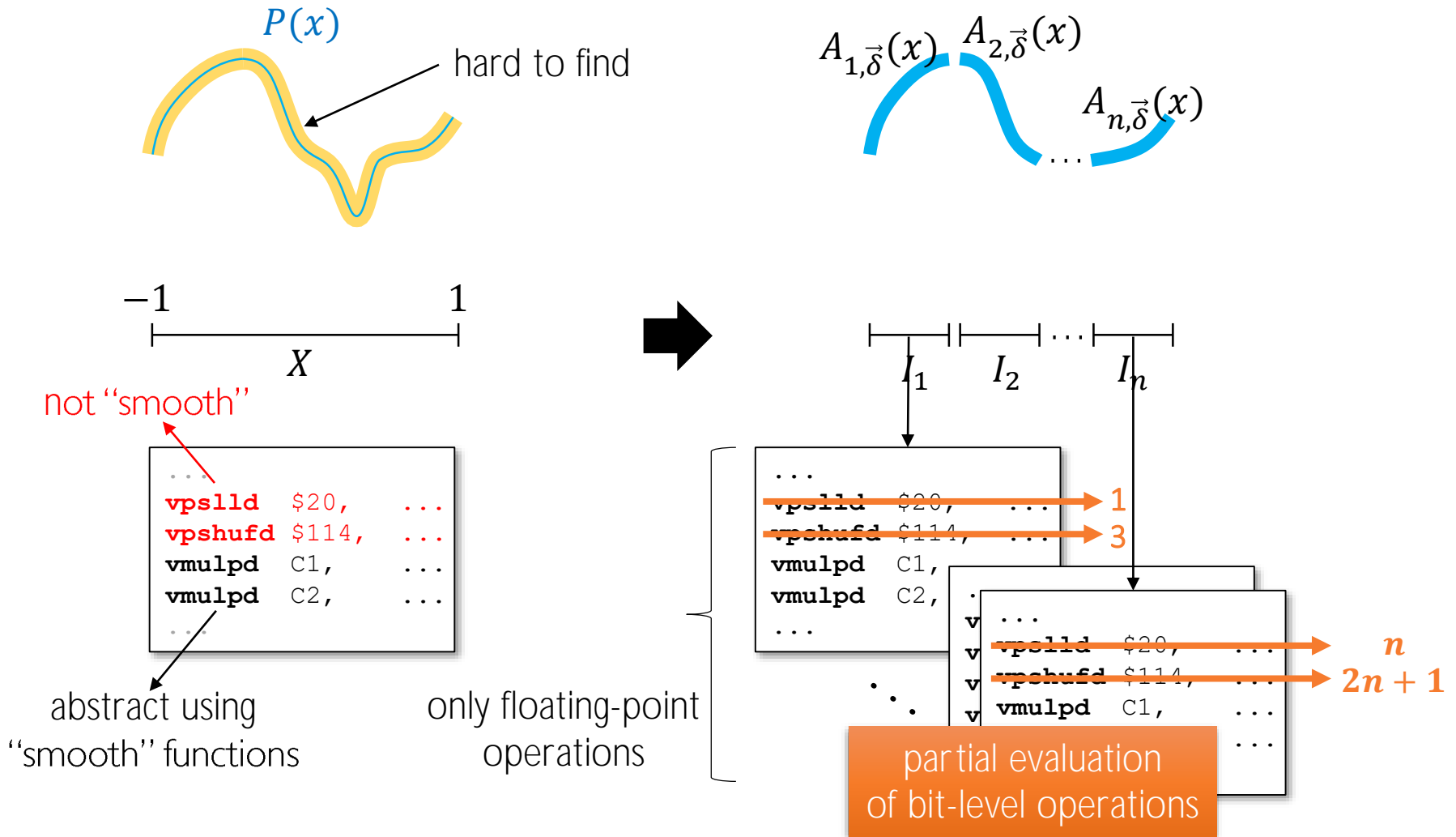
Our Method: Overview



Our Method: Overview

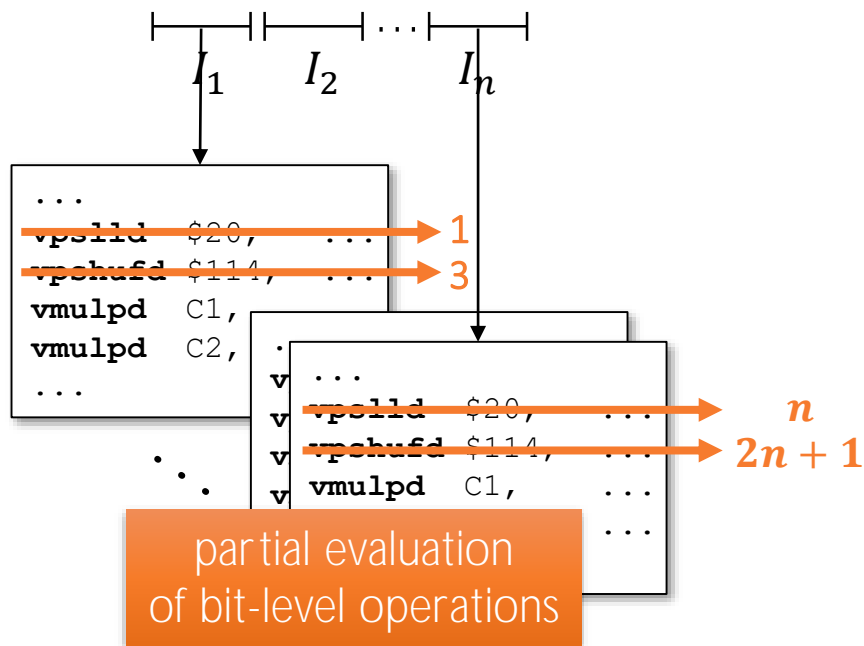


Our Method: Overview

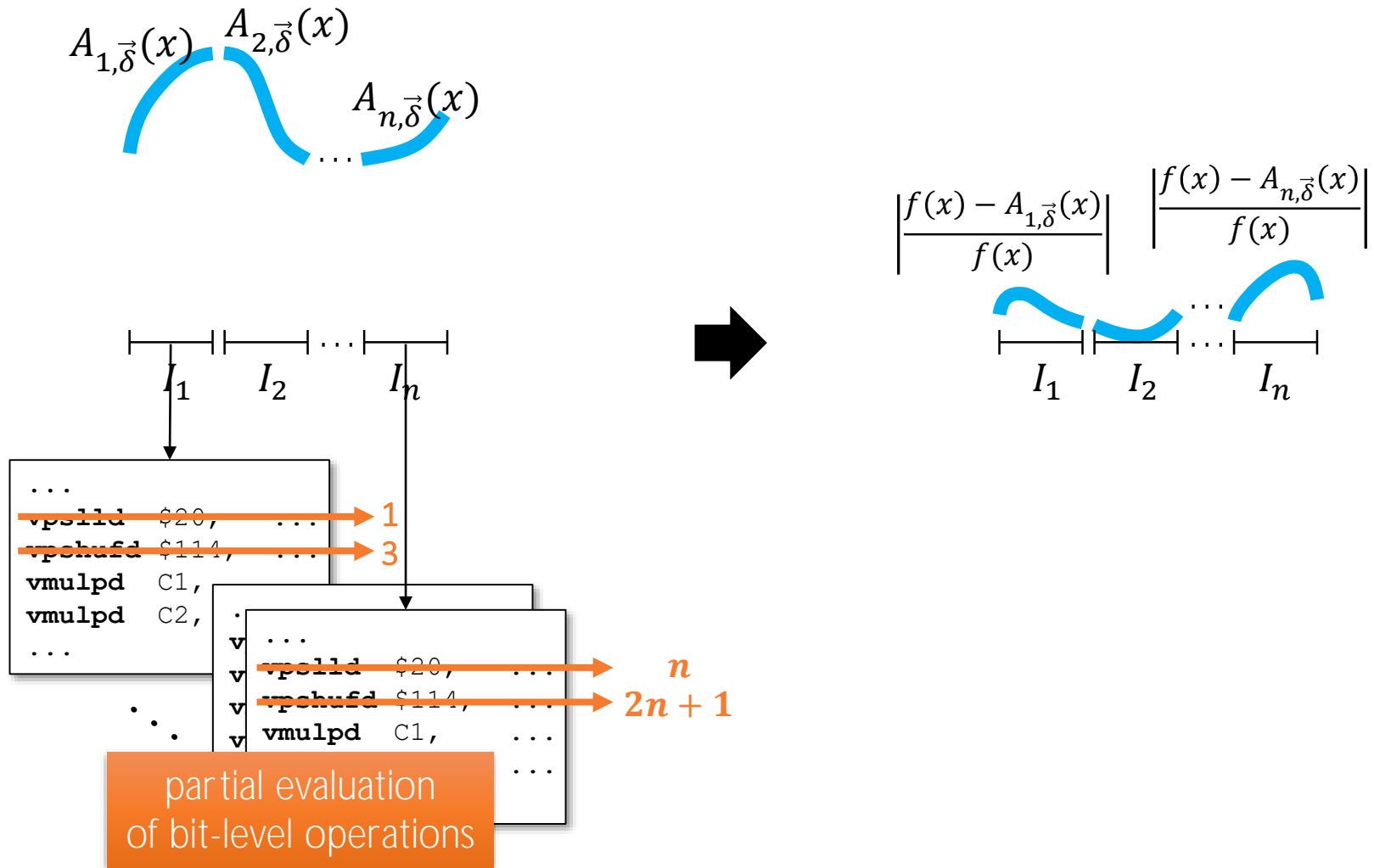


Our Method: Overview

$$A_{1,\vec{\delta}}(x) \quad A_{2,\vec{\delta}}(x) \quad \dots \quad A_{n,\vec{\delta}}(x)$$



Our Method: Overview

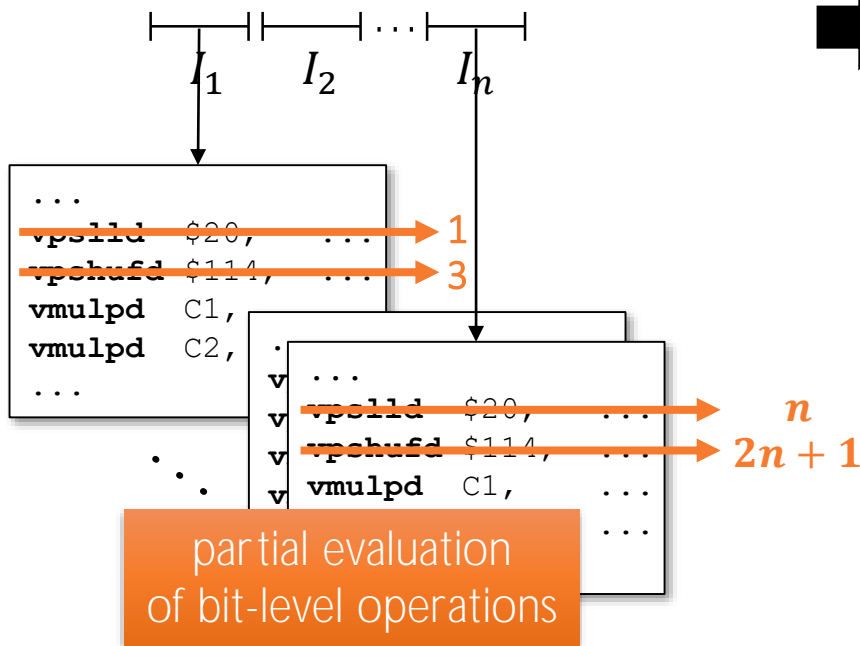


Our Method: Overview

$$A_{1,\vec{\delta}}(x) \quad A_{2,\vec{\delta}}(x) \quad \dots \quad A_{n,\vec{\delta}}(x)$$

solve optimization problems

$$\max \left| \frac{f(x) - A_{1,\vec{\delta}}(x)}{f(x)} \right| \max \left| \frac{f(x) - A_{n,\vec{\delta}}(x)}{f(x)} \right|$$



Our Method: Overview

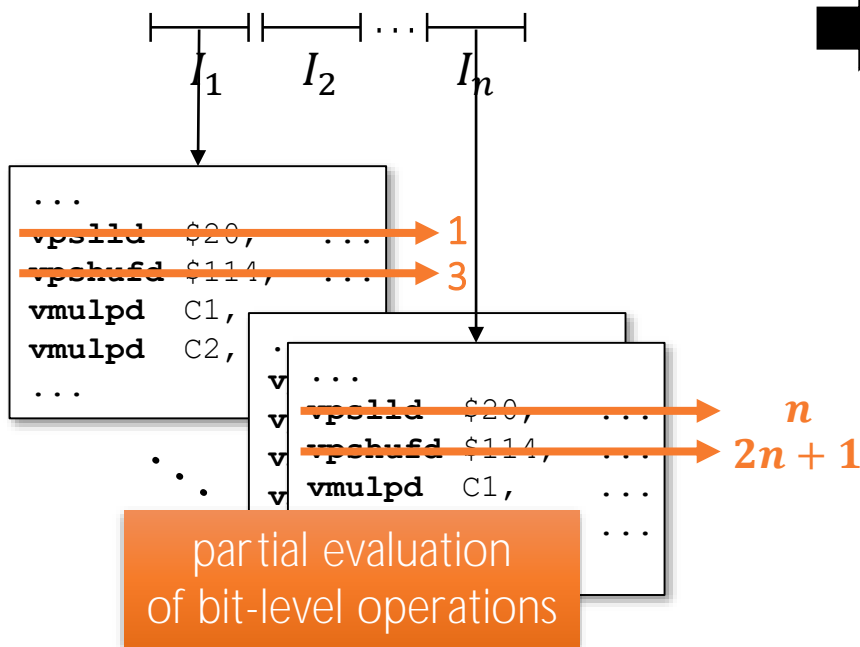
$$A_{1,\vec{\delta}}(x) \quad A_{2,\vec{\delta}}(x) \quad \dots \quad A_{n,\vec{\delta}}(x)$$

solve optimization problems

$$\max \left| \frac{f(x) - A_{1,\vec{\delta}}(x)}{f(x)} \right| \max \left| \frac{f(x) - A_{n,\vec{\delta}}(x)}{f(x)} \right|$$



answer!



2) Divide the Input Range

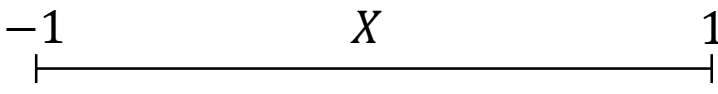
- Assume bit-level operations are used as well

2) Divide the Input Range

- Assume bit-level operations are used as well
- To handle bit-level operations, **divide** X into intervals I_k ,
so that, on each I_k , we can **statically** know
the result of each bit-level operation

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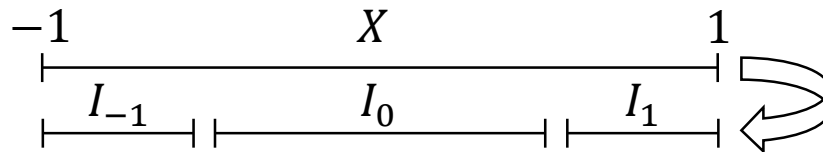
- Example: 

```
input x
y ← x ×f C
    (C= 0x3ff71547652b82fe)
N ← round(y)
z ← int(N) +i 0x3ff
w ← z << 52
...
```

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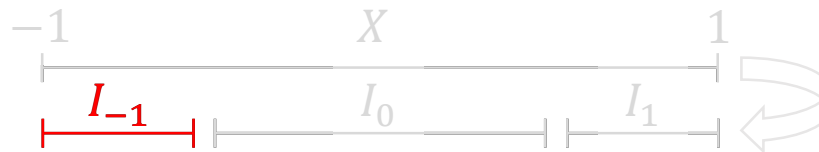


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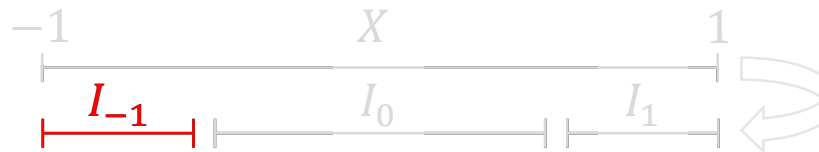


```
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y ← x ×f C
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N ← round(y)
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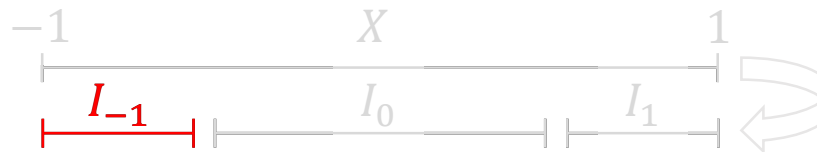


```
input x
y ← x ×f C
    (C= 0x3ff71547652b82fe)
N ← round(y) → -1
z ← int(N) +i 0x3ff
w ← z << 52
...
```


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- Example:



```
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    (C = 0x3ff71547652b82fe)
N ← round(y) → -1
z ← int(N) +i 0x3ff
w ← z << 52
...
```

partial evaluation

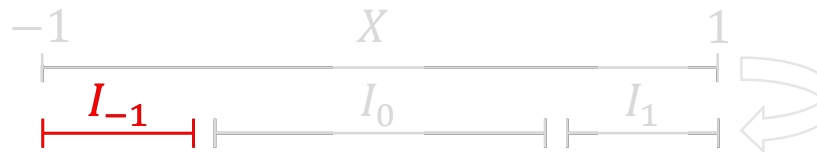
```
input x
y ← x ×f C
    (C = 0x3ff71547652b82fe)
N ← -1
z ← 1022
w ← 0.5
...
```

2) Divide the Input Range

- Assume bit-level operations are used as well
- To handle bit-level operations, **divide** X into intervals I_k ,

so that, on each I_k , we can **statically** know the result of each bit-level operation

- Example:



```

input x
y ← x ×f C
    (C= 0x3ff71547652b82fe)
N ← round(y) → -1
    
```



partial evaluation

```

input x
y ← x ×f C
    (C= 0x3ff71547652b82fe)
N ← -1
    
```

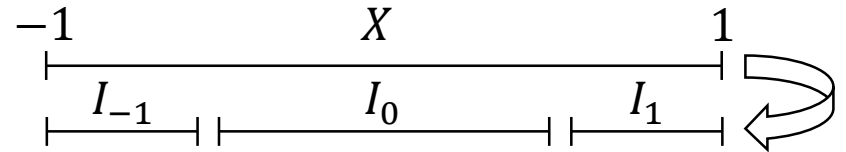
Only floating-point operations are left
 → Can compute $A_{\vec{\delta}}(x)$ on each I_k

2) Divide the Input Range

- How to find such intervals?

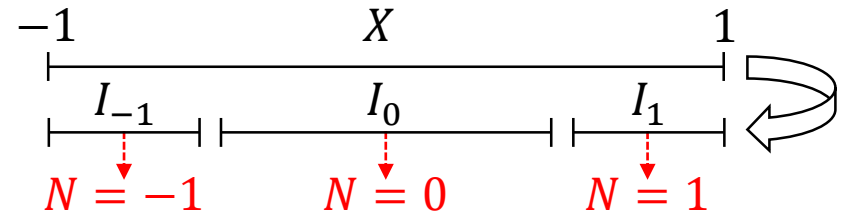
2) Divide the Input Range

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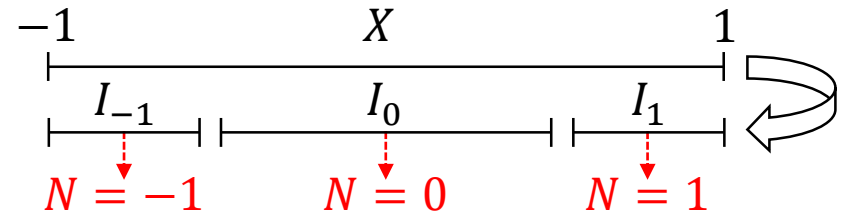
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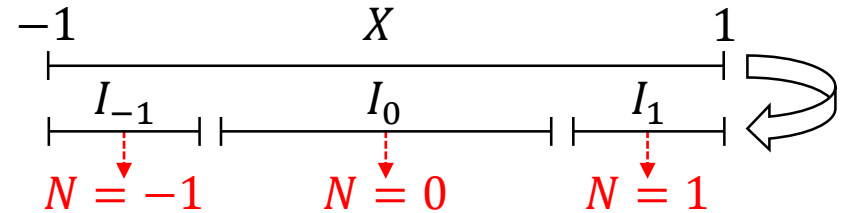
2) Divide the Input Range

- How to find such intervals?
 - Use symbolic abstractions



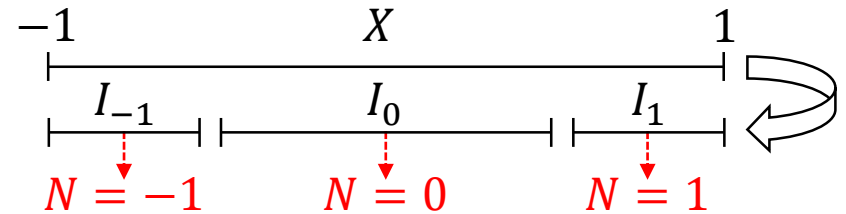
2) Divide the Input Range

- How to find such intervals?
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- Example:
 - $N = \text{round}(x \times_f C)$



2) Divide the Input Range

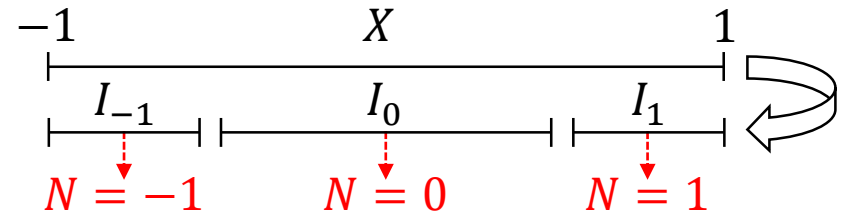
- How to find such intervals?
 - Use symbolic abstractions



- Example:
 - $N = \text{round}(x \times_f C)$
 - (symbolic abstraction of $x \times_f C$) = $(x \times C)(1 + \delta)$

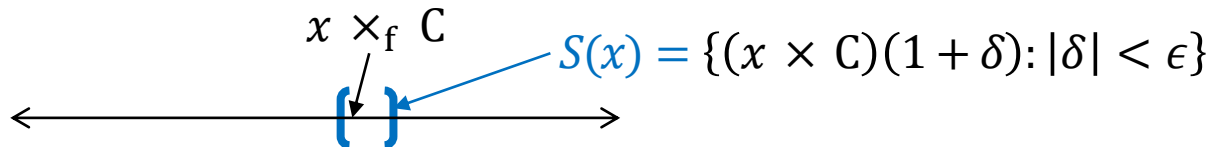
2) Divide the Input Range

- How to find such intervals?
 - Use symbolic abstractions



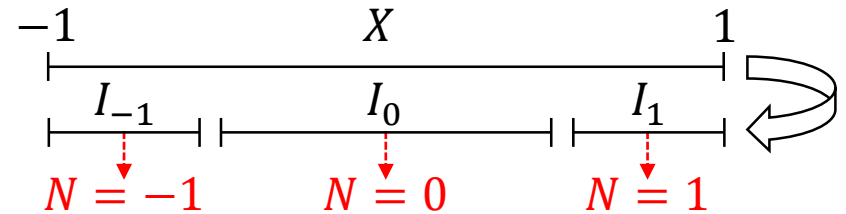
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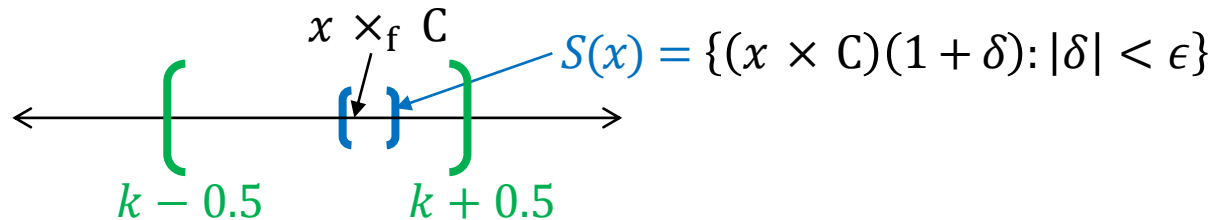
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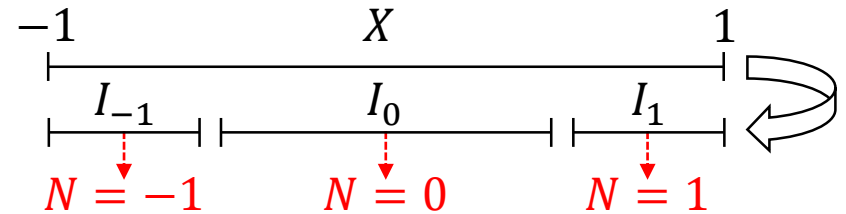
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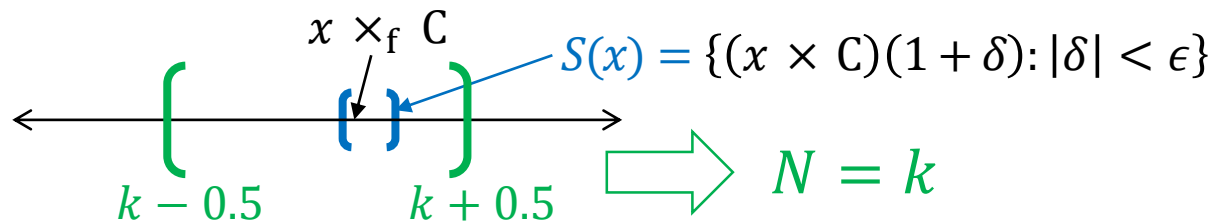
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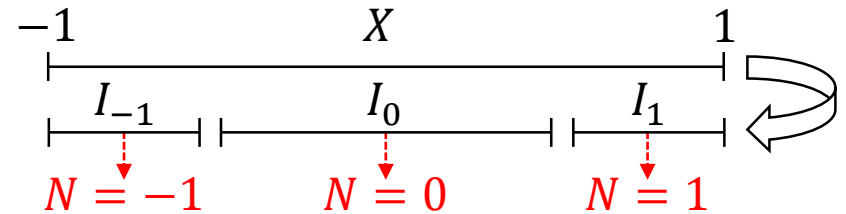
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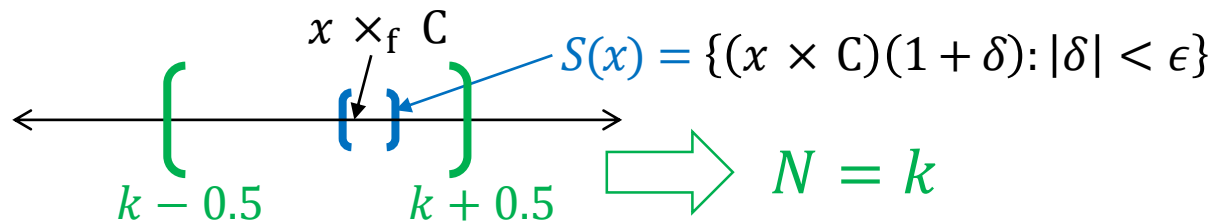
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- Let $I_k =$ largest interval contained in $\{x \in X : S(x) \subset (k - 0.5, k + 0.5)\}$

3) Compute a Bound on Precision Loss

- Precision loss on each interval I_k
 - Let $A_{\vec{\delta}}(\mathbf{x})$ be a symbolic abstraction on I_k

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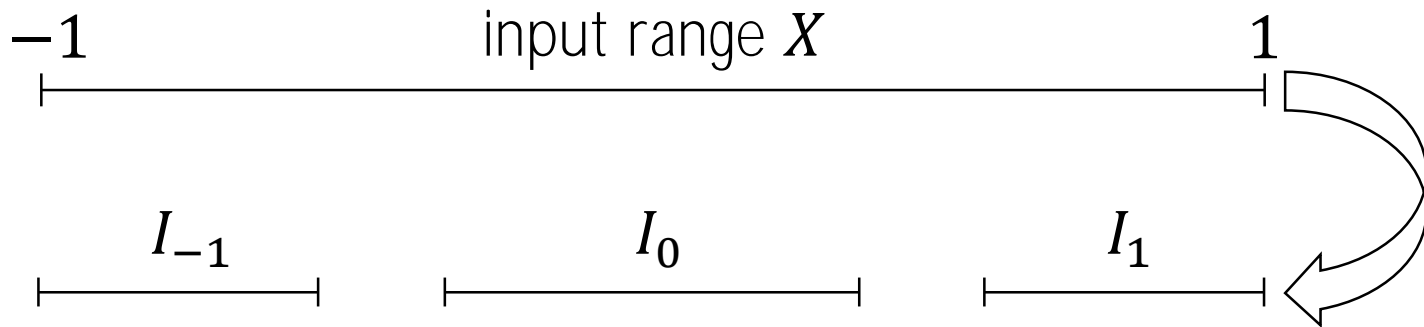
- Precision loss on each interval I_k
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 - Analytical optimization:

$$\max_{x \in I_k, |\delta_i| < \epsilon} \left| \frac{e^x - A_{\vec{\delta}}(x)}{e^x} \right|$$

- Use Mathematica to solve optimization problems analytically

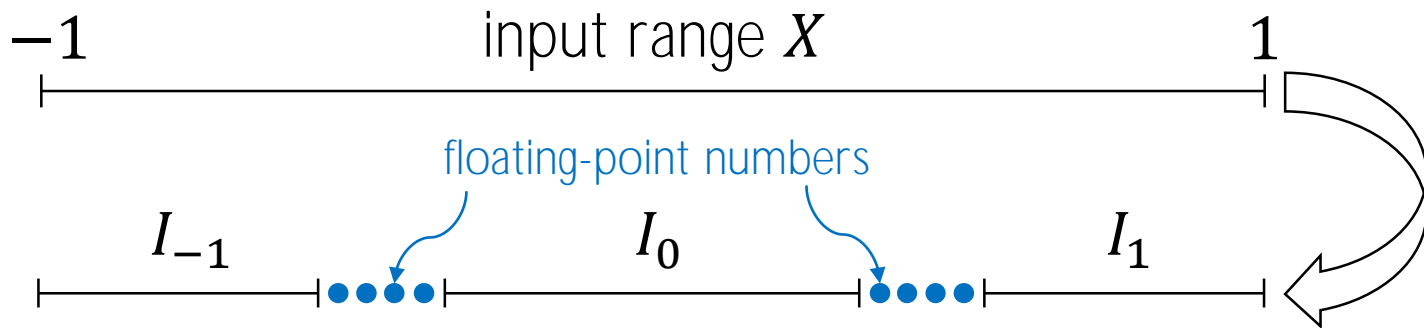
Are We Done?

- No. The constructed intervals **do not** cover X in general



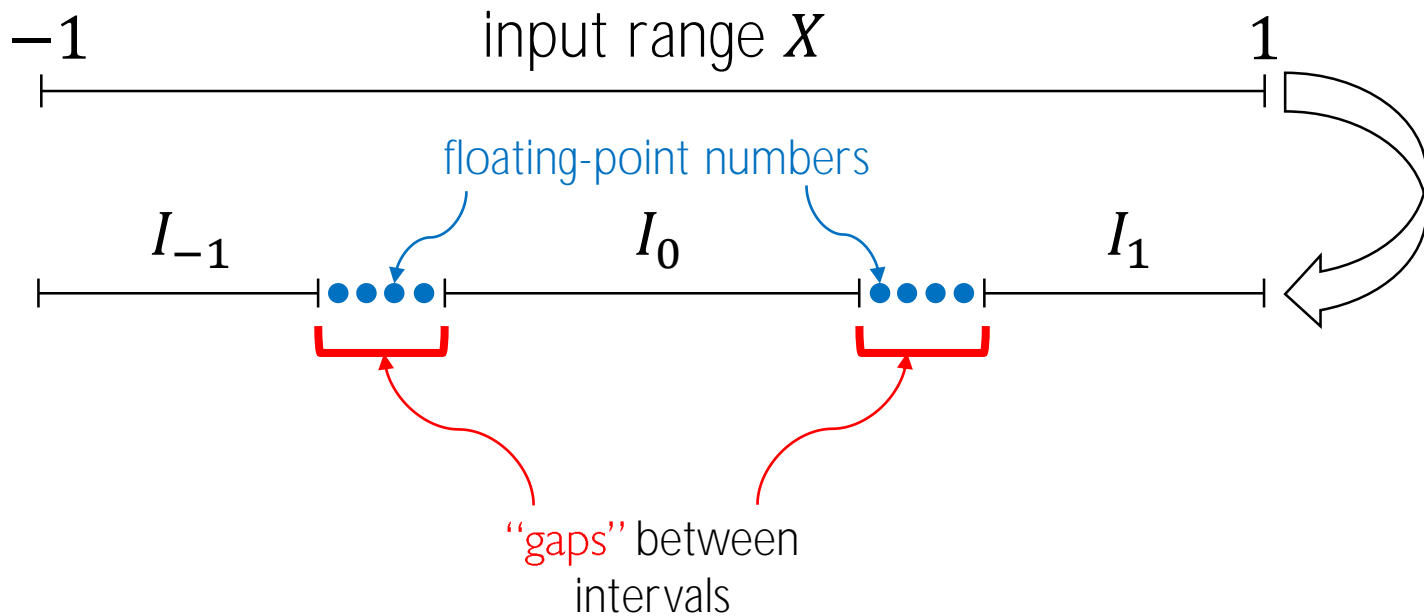
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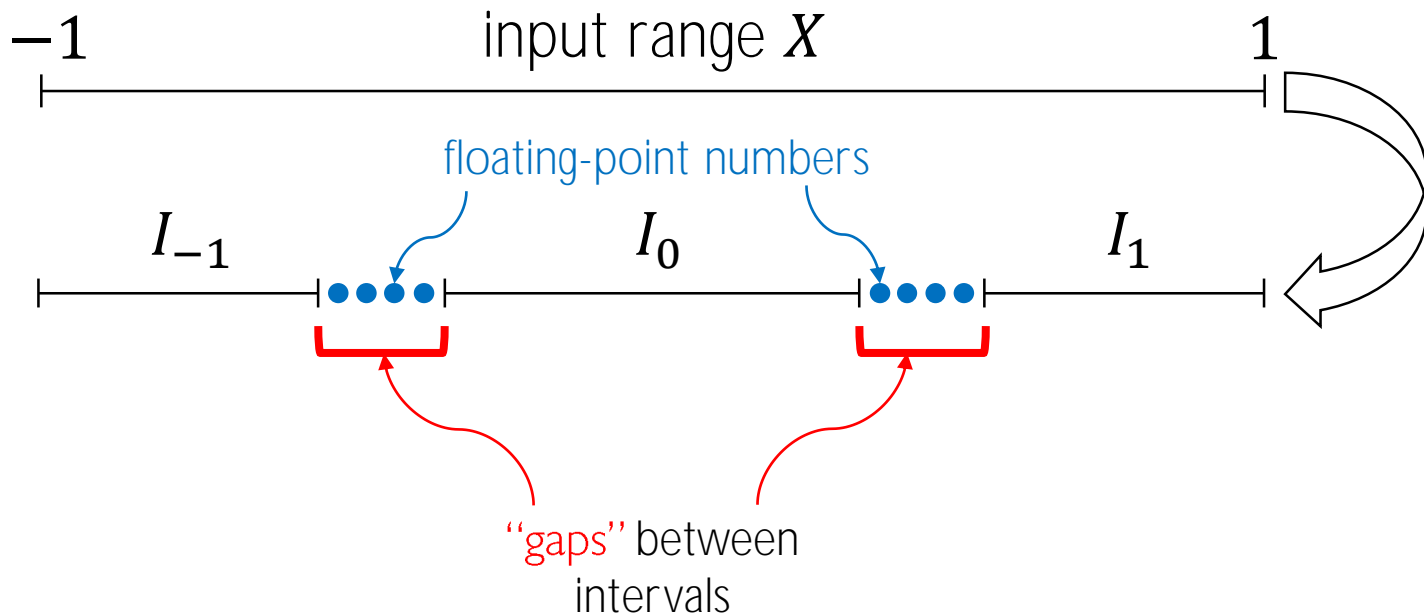
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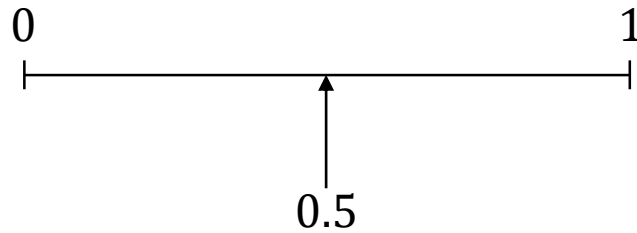
- No. The constructed intervals **do not** cover X in general
 - Because we made sound approximations



Are We Done?

- Example: $N = \text{round}(x \times_f C)$

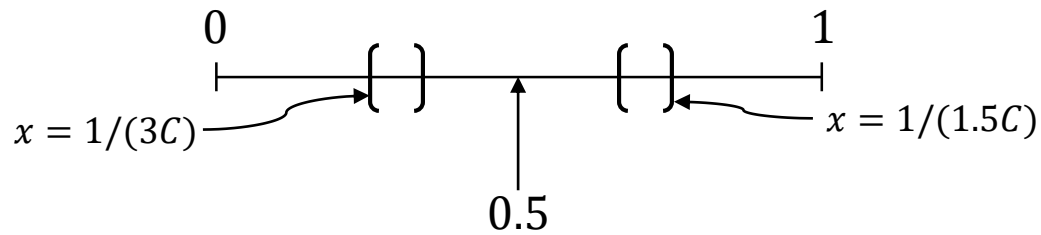
$[]$: abstraction of $x \times_f C$



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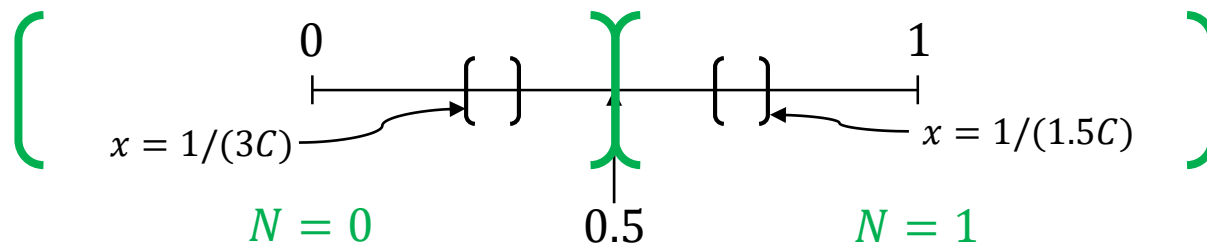
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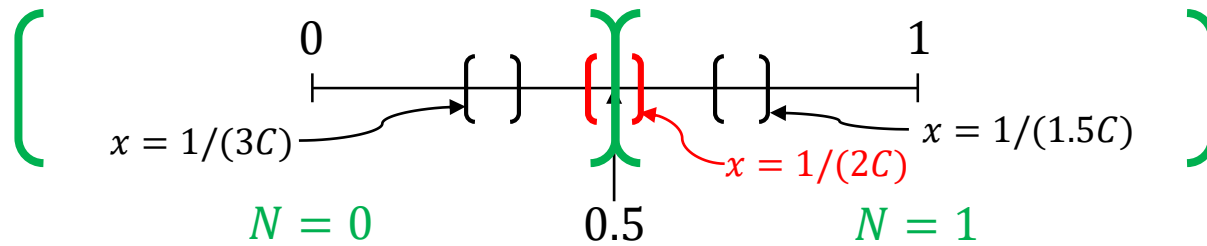
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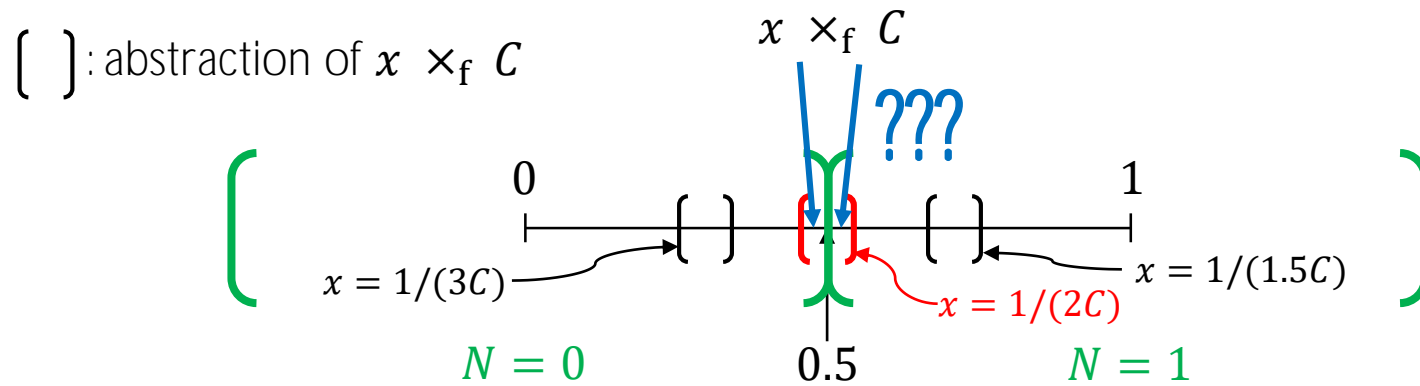
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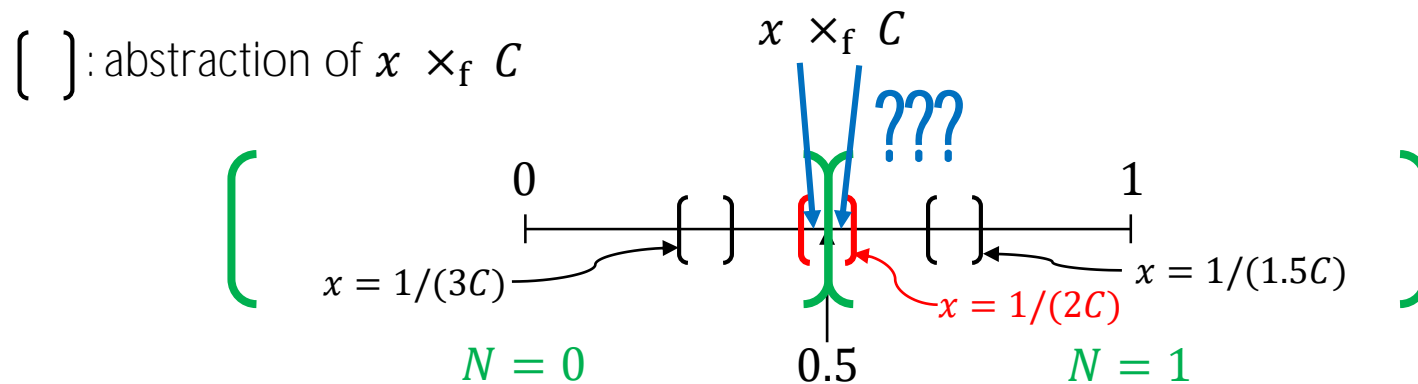
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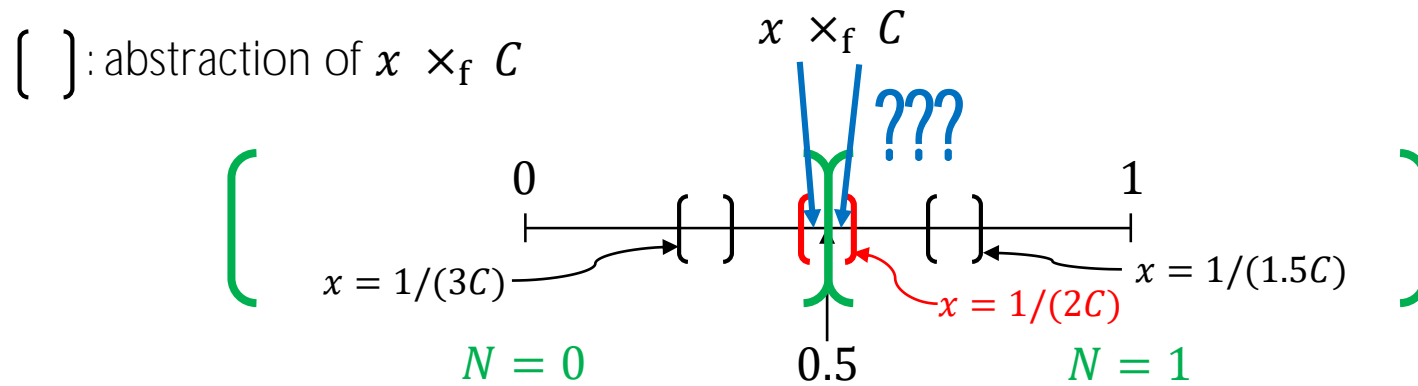
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For $x = \frac{1}{2C}$, we can't statically know if N would be **0** or **1**

Are We Done?

- Example: $N = \text{round}(x \times_f C)$



For $x = \frac{1}{2C}$, we can't statically know if N would be 0 or 1

- Let $H = \{\text{floating-point numbers in the "gaps"}\}$
 - We observe that $|H|$ is small in experiment

3) Compute a Bound on Precision Loss

- Precision loss on each interval I_k
 - Let $A_{\vec{\delta}}(x)$ be a symbolic abstraction on I_k
 - Analytical optimization:

$$\max_{x \in I_k, |\delta_i| < \epsilon} \left| \frac{e^x - A_{\vec{\delta}}(x)}{e^x} \right|$$

- Use Mathematica to solve optimization problems analytically

- Precision loss on H
 - For each $x \in H$, obtain $P(x)$ by executing the binary
 - **Brute force:**

$$\max_{x \in H} \left| \frac{e^x - P(x)}{e^x} \right|$$

- Use Mathematica to compute e^x and precision loss exactly

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take maximum

→ answer!

- Use Mathematica to solve optimization problems analytically

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Case Studies

Settings

- Benchmarks
 - `exp`: from S3D (a combustion simulation engine)
 - `sin, log`: from Intel's `<math.h>`
- Measures of precision loss
 - Relative error: $\text{RelErr}(a, b) = \left| \frac{a-b}{a} \right|$
 - ULP error:
 - Rounding errors of numeric libraries are typically measured by ULPs

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- Relative error: $\text{RelErr}(a, b) = \left| \frac{a-b}{a} \right|$

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- Rounding errors of numeric libraries are typically measured by ULPs

- $\text{ULPErr}(a, b) = (\# \text{ of floating-point numbers between } a \text{ and } b)$

- Example:



- $\text{ULPErr}(a, b) \leq 2 \cdot \text{RelErr}(a, b) / \epsilon$

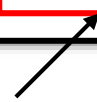
Results

	Interval	Bound on ULP error	# of intervals	# of δ 's	Size of "gaps"
exp	$[-4, 4]$	14	13	29	36
sin	$\left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right]$	9	33	53	110
log	$(0, 4) \setminus \left[\frac{4095}{4096}, 1\right)$	21	2^{21}	25	0
	$\left[\frac{4095}{4096}, 1\right)$	1×10^{14}	1	25	0

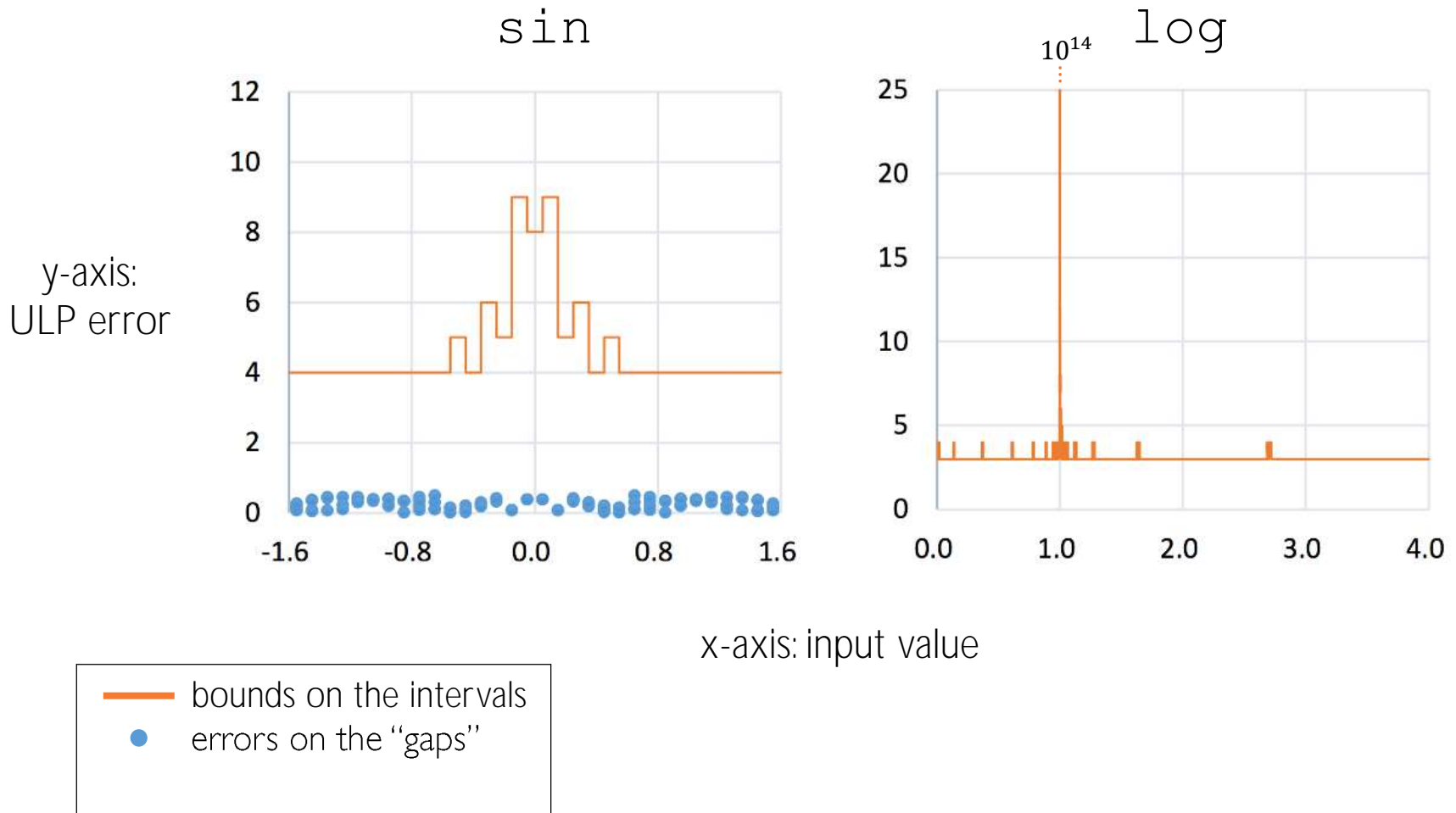
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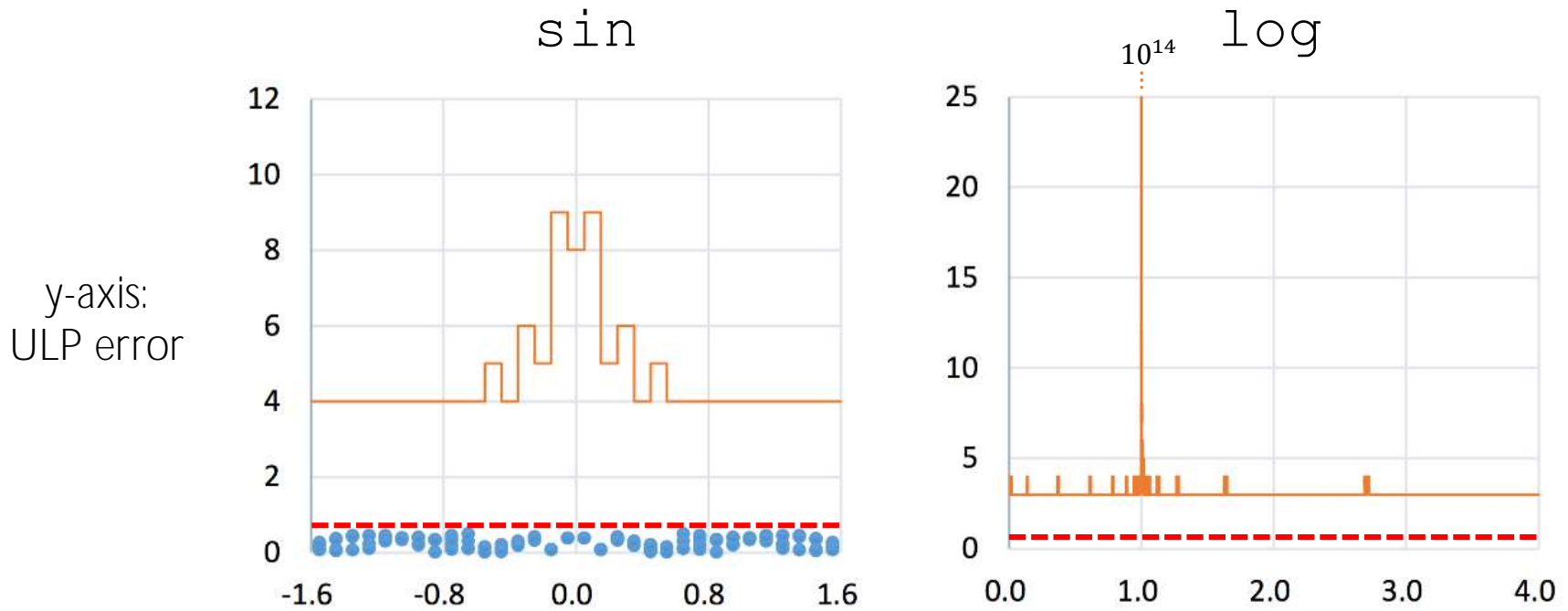
best illustrates
the power of our method



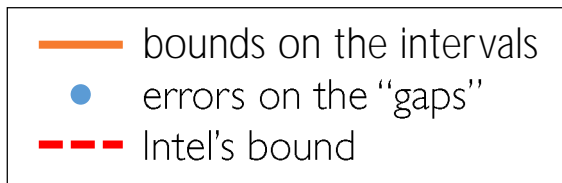
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x-axis: input value



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 - Example: `0x5fe6eb50c7b537a9 - (x >> 1)`
 - For this example, our method constructs 2^{63} intervals
- May produce **loose** error bounds
 - Example: 10^{14} ULPs for `log` on $\left[\frac{4095}{4096}, 1\right)$
 - Sometimes $(1 + \epsilon)$ property provides an imprecise abstraction
 - Proving a precise error bound requires **more sophisticated error analysis** beyond $(1 + \epsilon)$ property
 - Our recent result: **6 ULPs** for `log` on $(0,4)$

Summary

- First systematic method for verifying binaries that mix floating-point and bit-level operations
- Use abstraction, analytical optimization, and testing
- Directly applicable to highly optimized binaries of transcendental functions

Questions?