

Decidability of Extensions of Presburger Arithmetic by Hardy Field Functions

Or: If it looks like a polynomial, it's problematic



Hera Brown ¹



Jakub Konieczny ^{1,2}

¹University of Oxford

²Kyiv School of Economics

March 11th, 2026
STACS'26

Decidable and undecidable theories

- In this talk we're interested in extensions of Presburger arithmetic.

Decidable:

$\text{Th}(\mathbb{Z}; +)$
Presburger arithmetic

$\text{Th}(\mathbb{Z}; +, x \mapsto 2^x)$
Semënov arithmetic

$\text{Th}(\mathbb{Z}; +, \lfloor f \rfloor)$
(with f a Hardy field function)
???

Undecidable:

$\text{Th}(\mathbb{Z}; +, \cdot)$
Peano arithmetic

$\text{Th}(\mathbb{Z}; +, x \mapsto x^2)$
Presburger + squaring function

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Our result →

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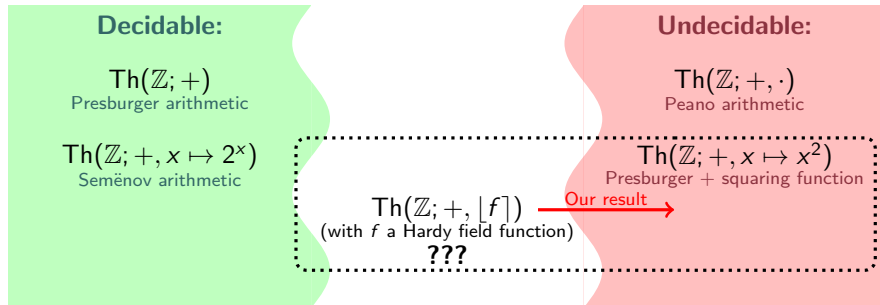
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A history of extensions of Presburger arithmetic



1953

Tarski:
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 is **undecidable**



1957

Putnam:
 $\text{Th}(\mathbb{Z}; +, P(x))$
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Büchi:
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2025

Us:
 What about:
 • $x^2 \log x$
 • $x^{3/2}$
 • \sqrt{x}
 and so on?

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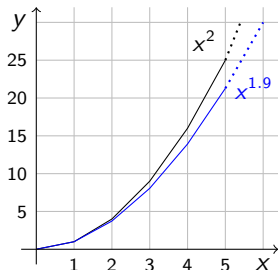
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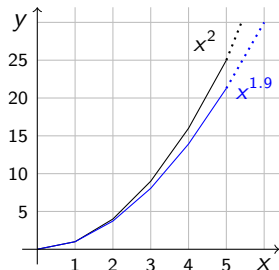
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Our motivation for the paper



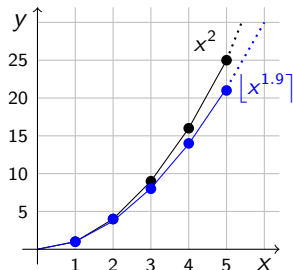
- ▶ We want to generalise Büchi's result to real-valued functions. For instance, the function $x^{1.9}$ looks awfully similar to x^2 .
- ▶ Because Presburger arithmetic can only talk about integers, we have to round our functions to the nearest integer; this doesn't lose us much fidelity.

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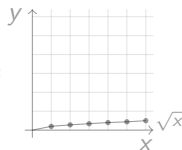
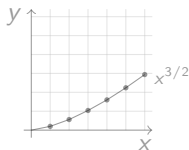
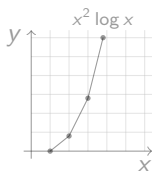
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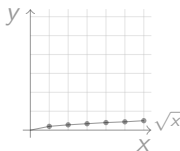
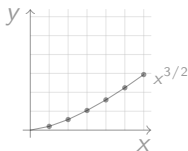
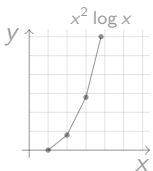
A definition of Hardy field functions

- ▶ We want a class of functions that captures everything that looks like a polynomial. The class of Hardy field functions fits the bill.
- ▶ There's a technical definition from analysis, but it suffices here that Hardy field functions include all functions built out of:
 - ▶ real-valued polynomials,
 - ▶ logarithms, and
 - ▶ exponentials.
- ▶ So all our functions from before are Hardy field functions:



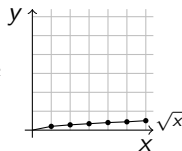
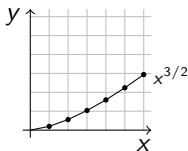
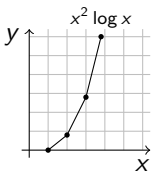
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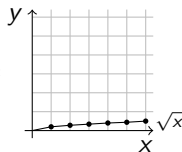
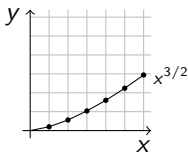
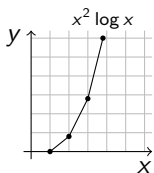


... and restrictions we need for our argument.

- ▶ We need a restriction, though. A Hardy field function is **subpolynomial** if it grows slower than some polynomial and faster than another.

Theorem (Brown & Konieczny, 2025)

*The extension of Presburger arithmetic by a rounded sub-polynomial non-constant non-linear Hardy field function is **undecidable**.*

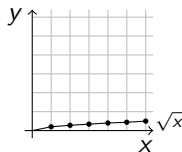
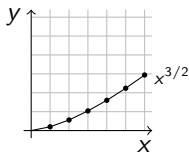
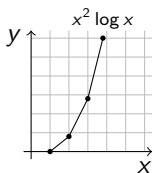


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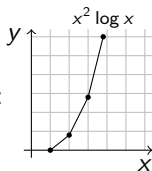
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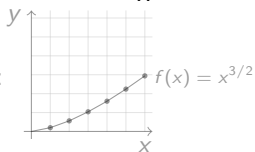
An overview of cases in our proof

We have three cases to consider:

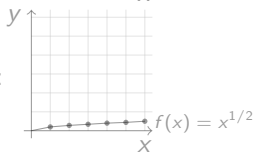
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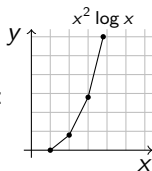


We'll now go through each of these cases.

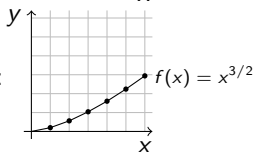
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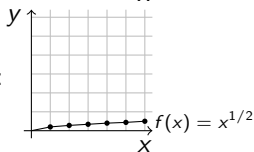
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- ▶ When f grows faster than x^2 , but slower than x^d for some $d \geq 2$, we approximate it by a degree- d Taylor polynomial.
- ▶ Surprisingly, we can approximate our Hardy field function arbitrarily well by a fixed-degree Taylor polynomial.

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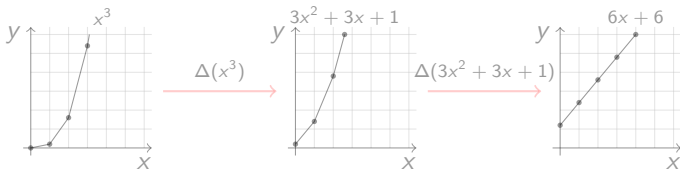
1 The idea behind our proof

- ▶ The squaring function is **undecidable** because we can define multiplication with it:

$$a \cdot b = c \iff (a + b)^2 - a^2 - b^2 = 2c.$$

- ▶ One way to apply Büchi's idea to higher-degree polynomials is to *discretely differentiate* them, defined as follows:

$$\Delta(f)(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f(x + 1) - f(x).$$



This will let us extract the squaring function from our Taylor polynomials.

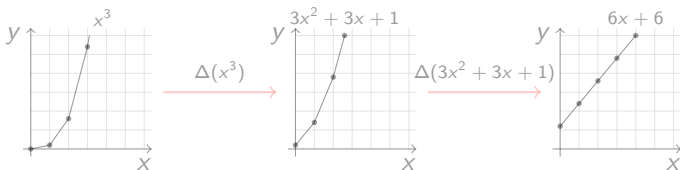
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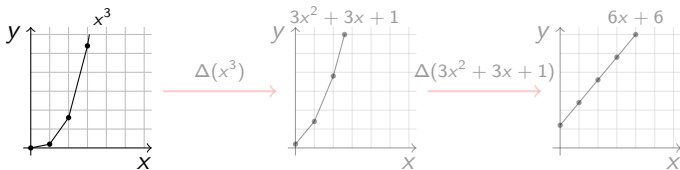
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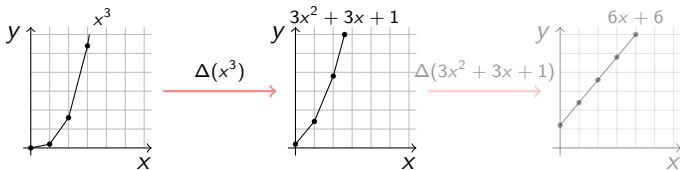
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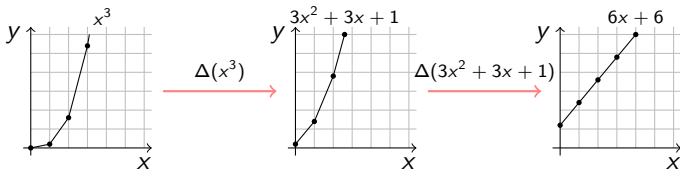
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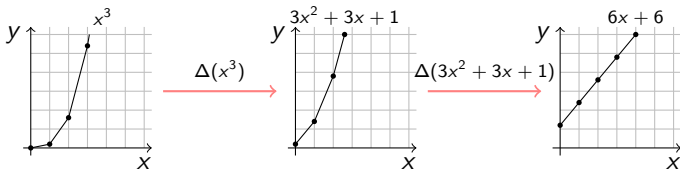
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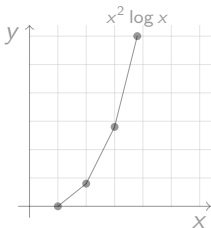
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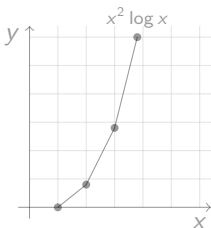
1 Defining differentiation in Presburger arithmetic

- ▶ With that we have all we need to define multiplication in Presburger arithmetic. We have $ab = c$ iff:
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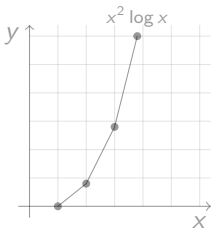
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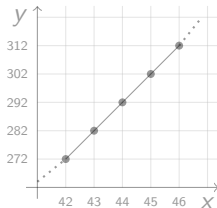
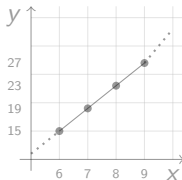
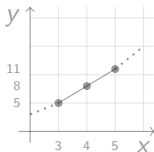
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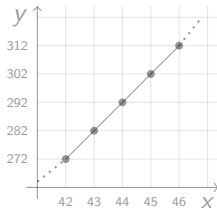
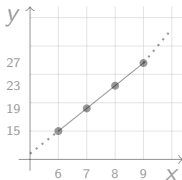
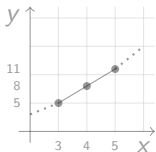
- ▶ If f grows slower than x^2 we can't use a polynomial approximation like above, because it'd be linear.
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- ▶ We can exploit this.

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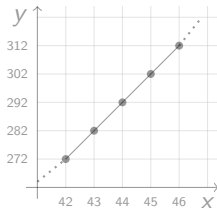
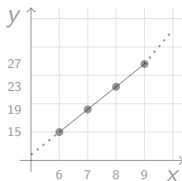
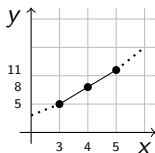
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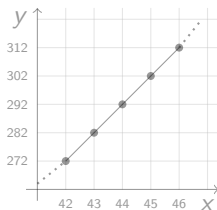
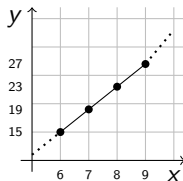
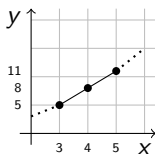
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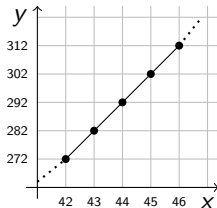
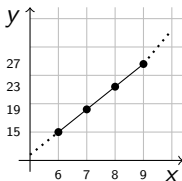
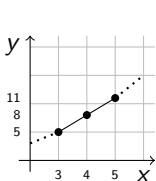
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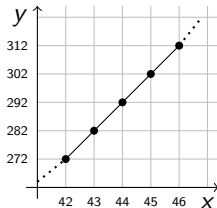
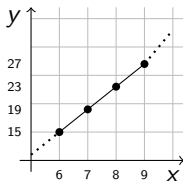
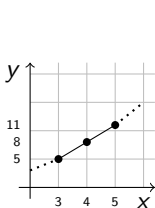
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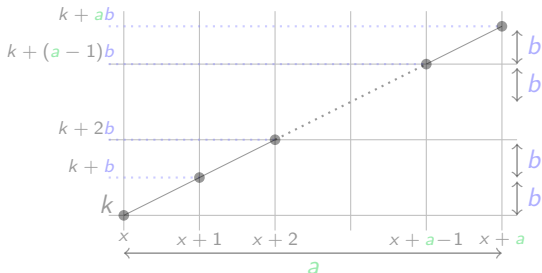


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2 Guaranteeing that linear intervals exist

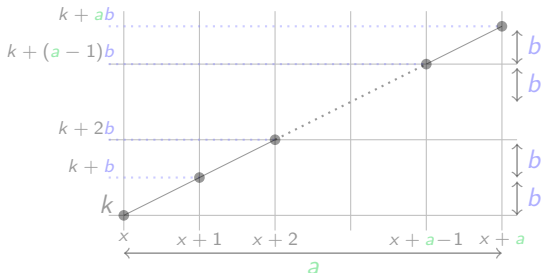
- We define multiplication using these intervals.

Namely, $a \cdot b = c$ just when $f(x+a) - f(x) = c$, where $[x, x+a]$ is a multiplicative interval with step b . The following diagram illustrates this:



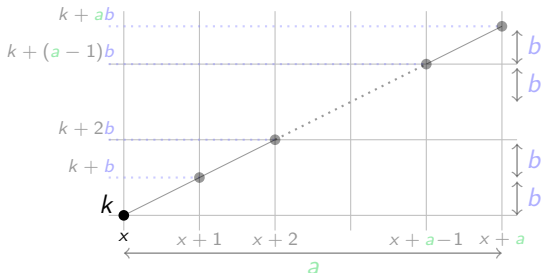
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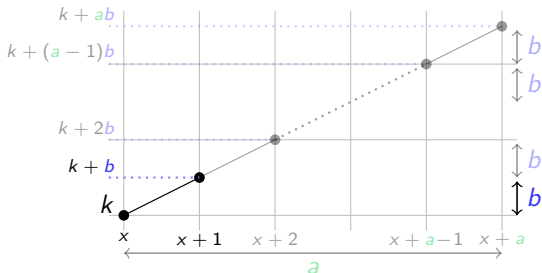
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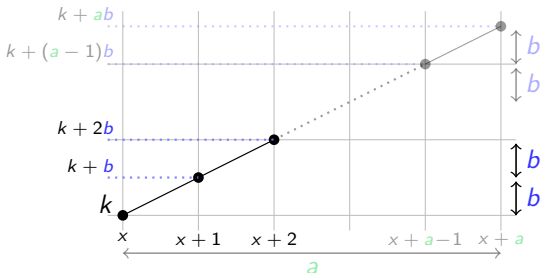
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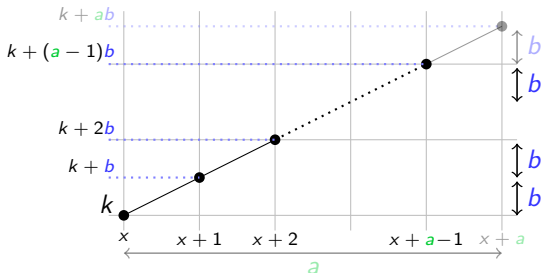
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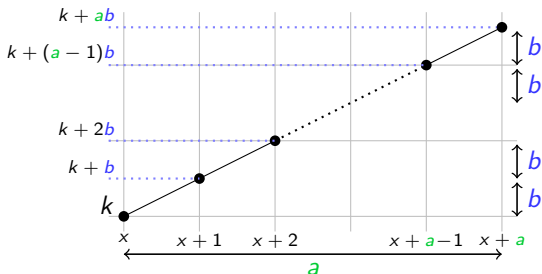
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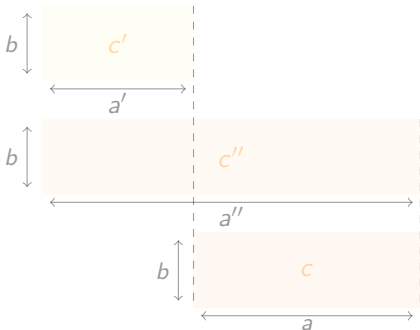


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2 ... and what to do when intervals don't exist.



- ▶ In some cases intervals of the right size doesn't exist.
- ▶ In this case we use *difference sets*. Specifically we have $a \cdot b = c$ when there are a' and a'' with:

$$a' \cdot b = c'$$

$$a'' \cdot b = c''$$

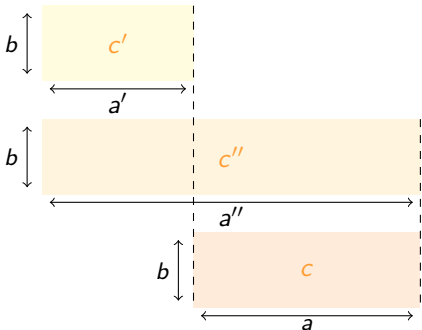
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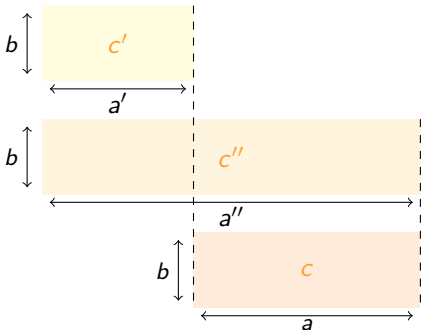
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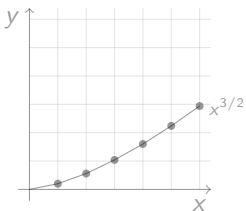
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2 So near-linear Hardy field functions are undecidable.

- ▶ With this we can define multiplication using a near-linear Hardy field function:
 - ▶ Find two multiplicative intervals,
 - ▶ Take the difference of them, and
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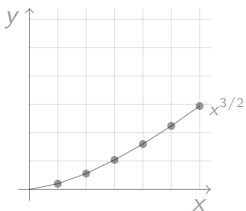
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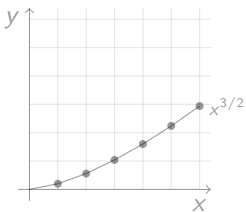
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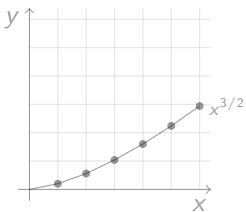
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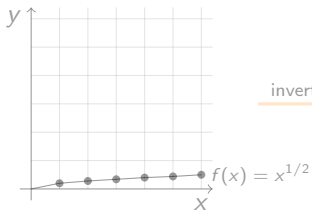
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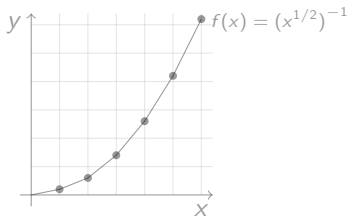


3 When f grows slowly

- ▶ When f grows slower than x , note that the inverse f^{-1} grows faster than x .



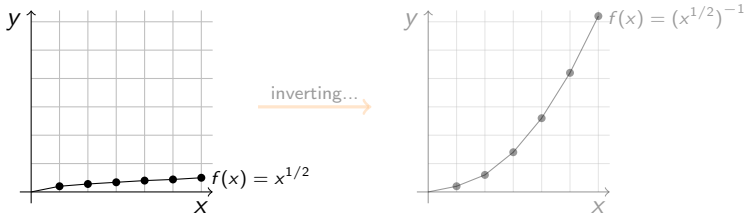
inverting... →



- ▶ The inverse f^{-1} is a Hardy field function and the inverse $\lfloor f \rfloor$ is a rounded Hardy field function. Our earlier proofs work here.

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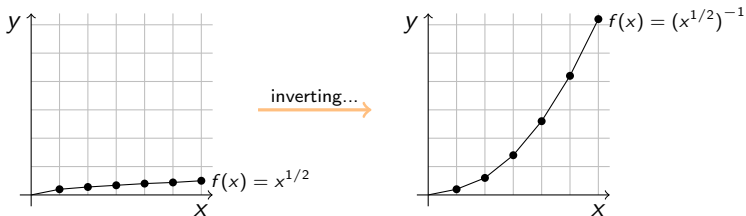
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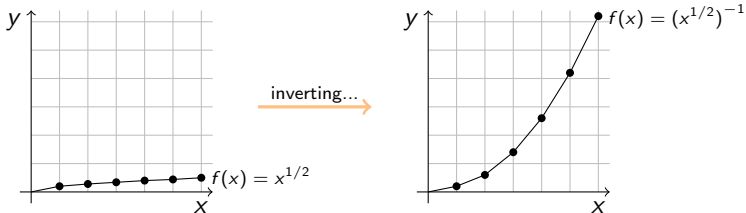
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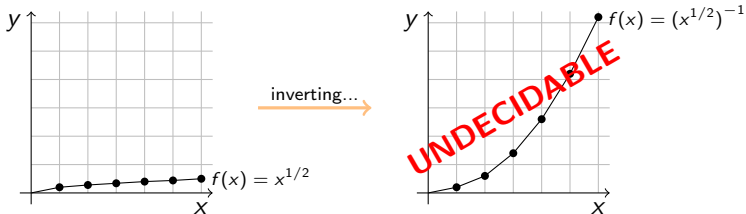
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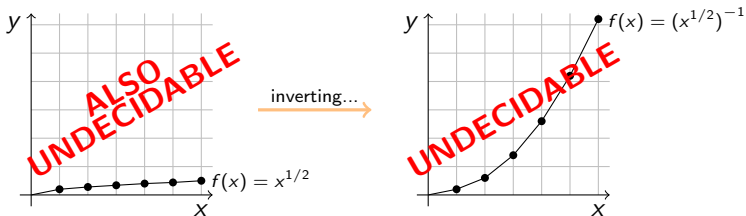
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