

Genetic Programming and Tag-Based Modularity

Lee Spector

based in part on work with

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Cognitive Science, Hampshire College

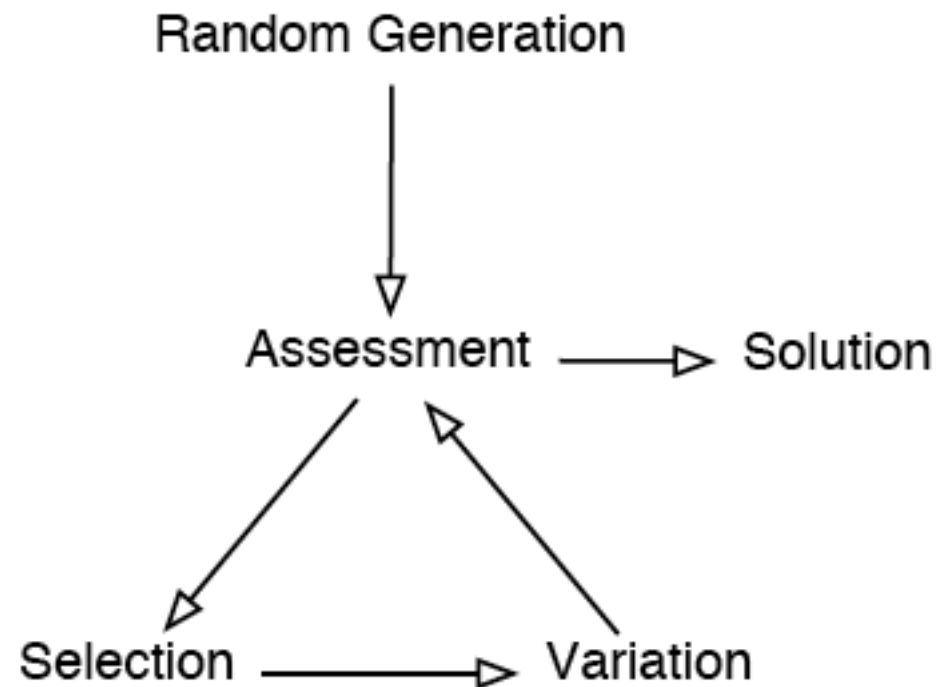
Computer Science, Brandeis University

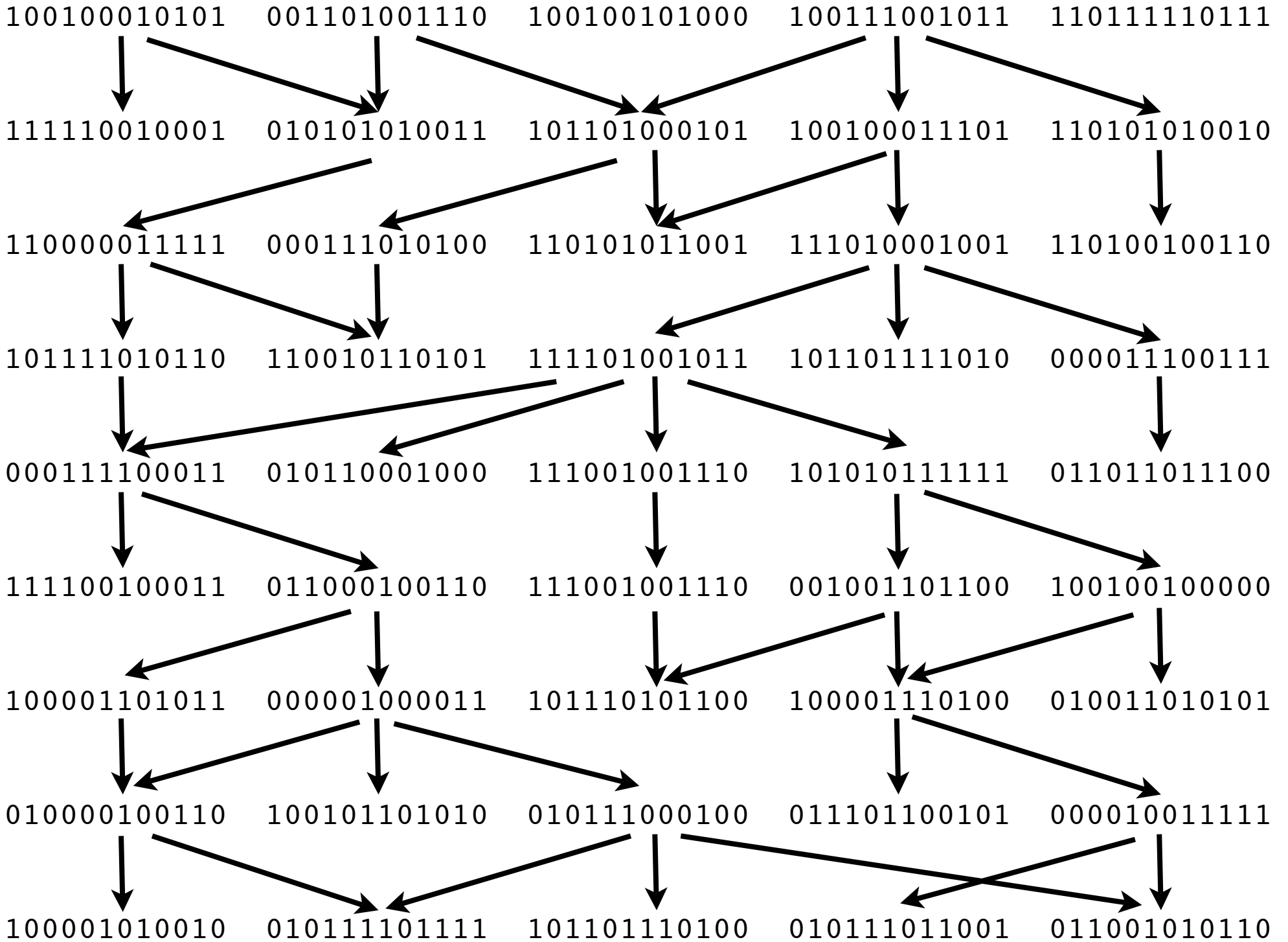
Computer Science, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Outline

- Genetic Programming (GP)
- Push and PushGP
- Modularity in GP
- Tags and Tag-based modularity
- Results

Evolutionary Computation





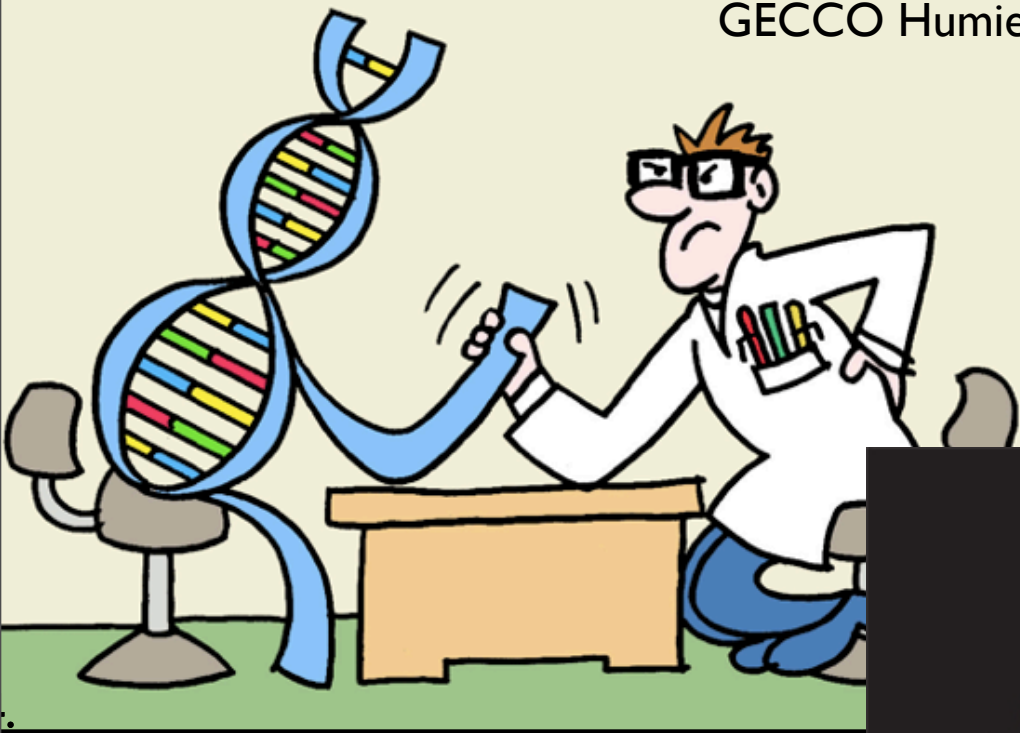
Traditional Genetic Algorithms

- Interesting dynamics
- Rarely solve interesting hard problems

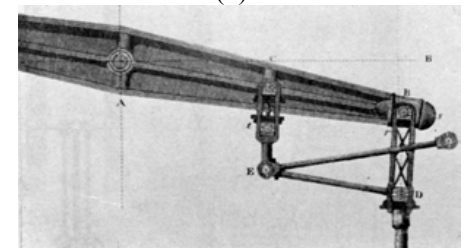
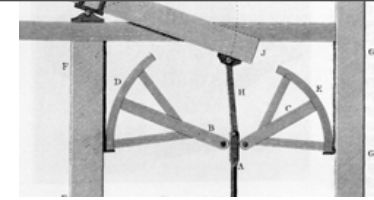
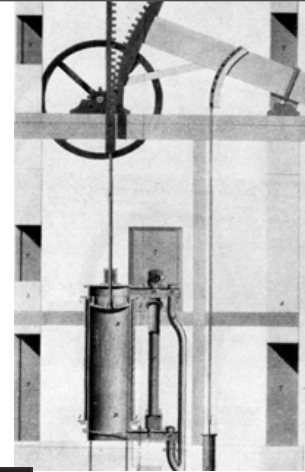
Genetic Programming

- Evolutionary computing to produce executable computer programs.
- Programs are tested by executing them.

GECCO Humies

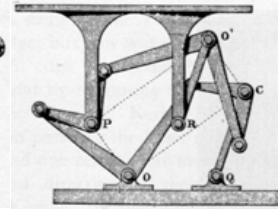
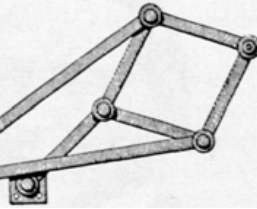
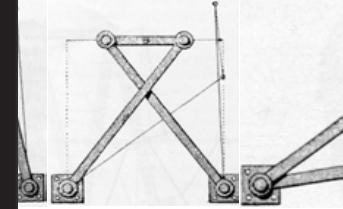


Lipson



(a)

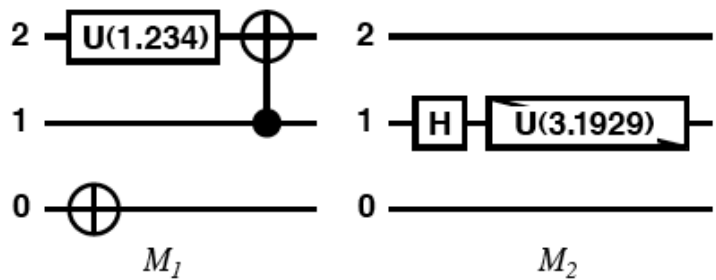
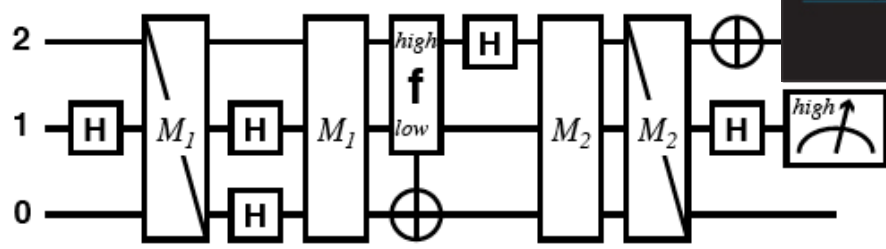
(c)



(e)

(f)

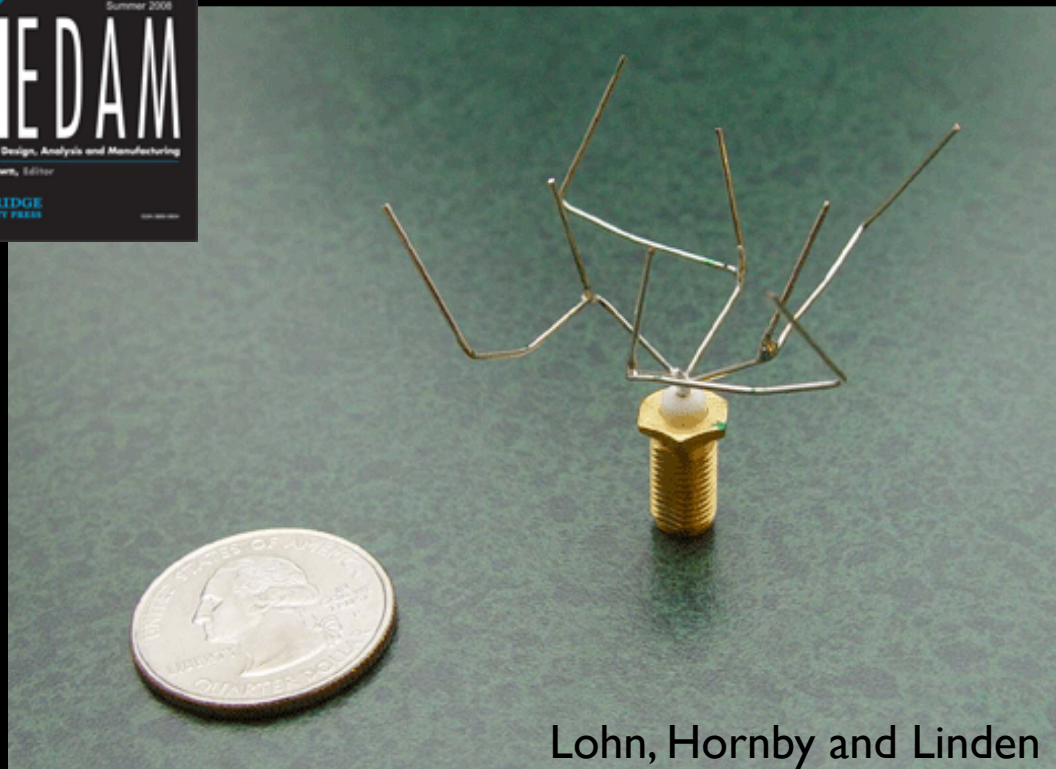
(g)



M_1

M_2

Spector



Lohn, Hornby and Linden

Evolution, the Designer

“Darwinian evolution is itself a designer worthy of significant respect, if not religious devotion.” *Boston Globe* OpEd, Aug 29, 2005

WHAT WOULD DARWIN SAY? | LEE SPECTOR

And now, digital evolution

The Boston Globe

By Lee Spector | August 29, 2005

RECENT developments in computer science provide new perspective on "intelligent design," the view that life's complexity could only have arisen through the hand of an intelligent designer. These developments show that complex and useful designs can indeed emerge from random Darwinian processes.

Program Representations

- Lisp-style symbolic expressions (Koza, ...).
- Purely functional/lambda expressions (Walsh, Yu, ...).
- Linear sequences of machine/byte code (Nordin et al., ...).
- Artificial assembly-like languages (Ray, Adami, ...).
- Stack-based languages (Perkis, Spector, Stoffel, Tchernev, ...).
- Graph-structured programs (Teller, Globus, ...).
- Object hierarchies (Bruce, Abbott, Schmutter, Lucas, ...)
- Fuzzy rule systems (Tunstel, Jamshidi, ...)
- Logic programs (Osborn, Charif, Lamas, Dubossarsky, ...).
- Strings, grammar-mapped to arbitrary languages (O'Neill, Ryan, ...).

Mutating Lisp

```
(+ (* X Y)
   (+ 4 (- Z 23)))
```

```
(+ (* X Y)
   (+ 4 (- Z 23)))
```

```
(+ (- (+ 2 2) Z)
   (+ 4 (- Z 23)))
```

Recombining Lisp

Parent 1: (+ (* **X Y**)
 (+ 4 (- z 23)))

Parent 2: (- (* 17 (+ 2 X))
 (* (- (* **2 Z**) **1**)
 (+ 14 (/ Y X))))

Child 1: (+ (- (* **2 Z**) **1**)
 (+ 4 (- z 23)))

Child 2: (- (* 17 (+ 2 X))
 (* (* **X Y**)
 (+ 14 (/ Y X))))

Symbolic Regression

Given a set of data points, evolve a program that produces y from x .

Primordial ooze: +, -, *, %, x, 0.1

Fitness = error (smaller is better)

GP Parameters

Maximum number of Generations: 51

Size of Population: 1000

Maximum depth of new individuals: 6

Maximum depth of new subtrees for mutants: 4

Maximum depth of individuals after crossover: 17

Fitness-proportionate reproduction fraction: 0.1

Crossover at any point fraction: 0.3

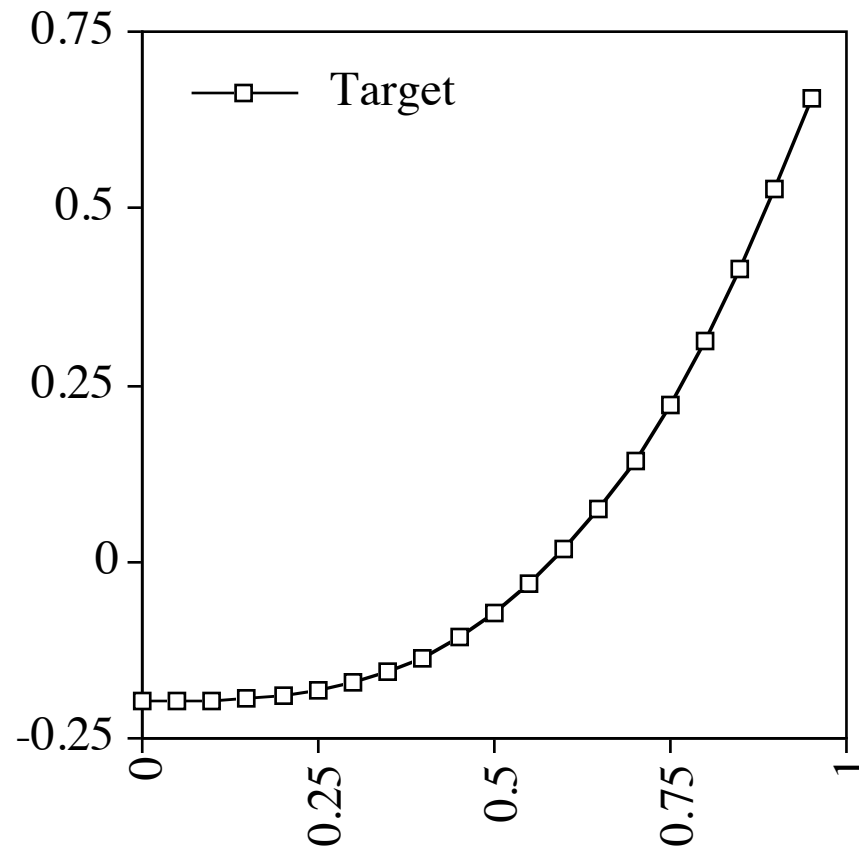
Crossover at function points fraction: 0.5

Selection method: FITNESS-PROPORTIONATE

Generation method: RAMPED-HALF-AND-HALF

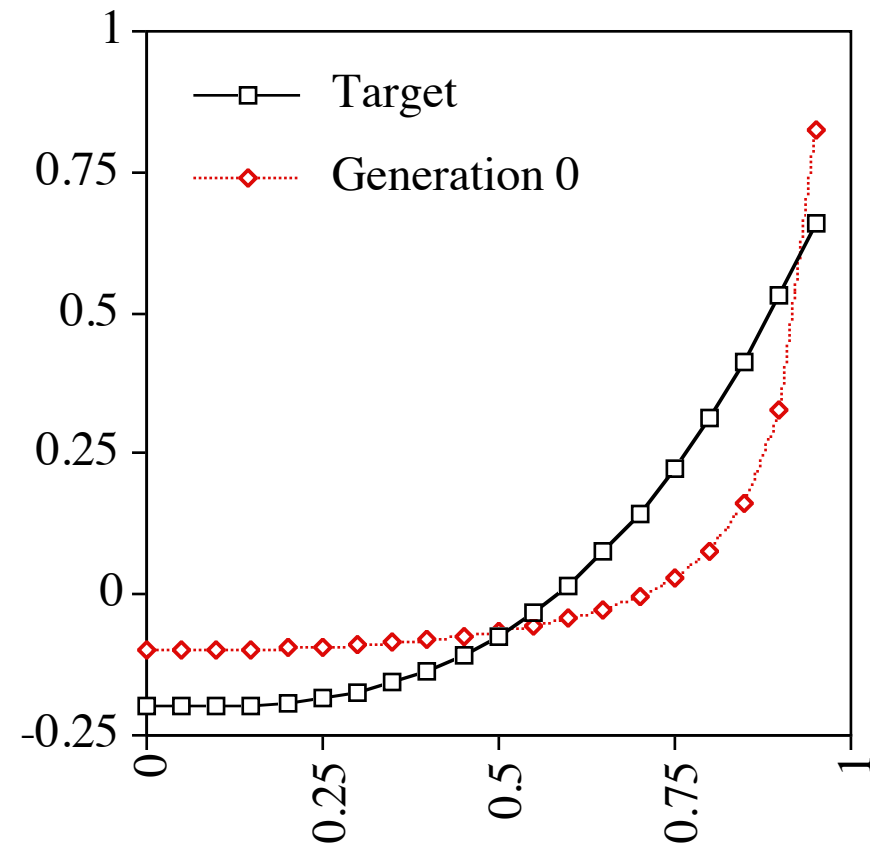
Randomizer seed: 1.2

Evolving $y = x^3 - 0.2$



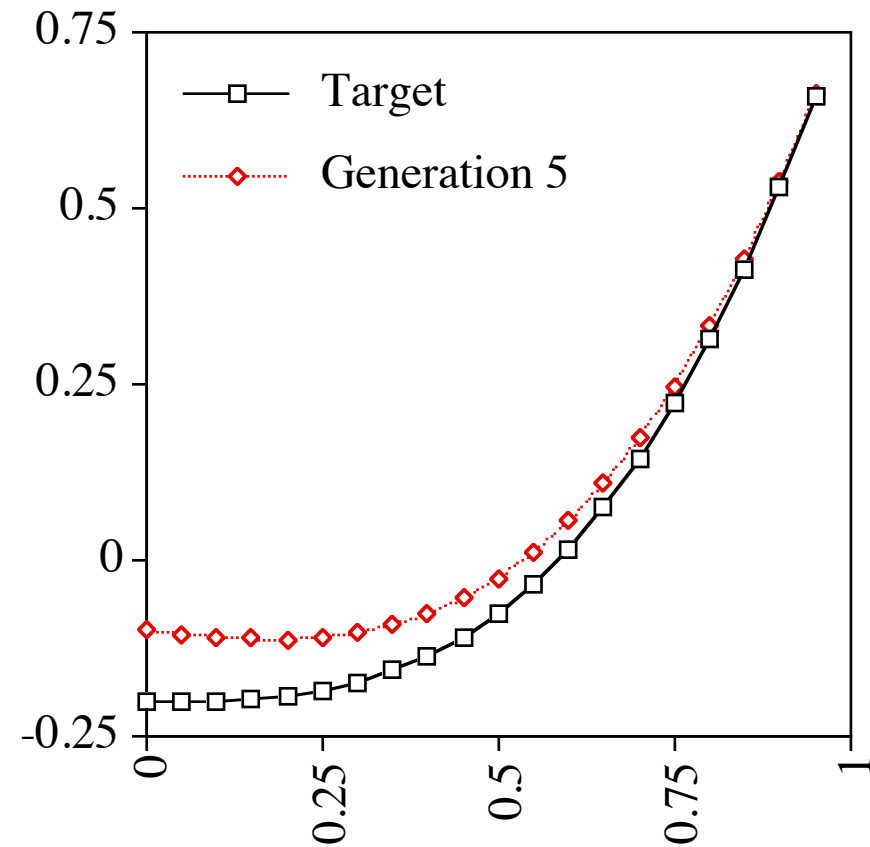
Best Program, Gen 0

```
(- (% (* 0.1  
      (* X X))  
  (- (% 0.1 0.1)  
      (* X X)))  
0.1)
```



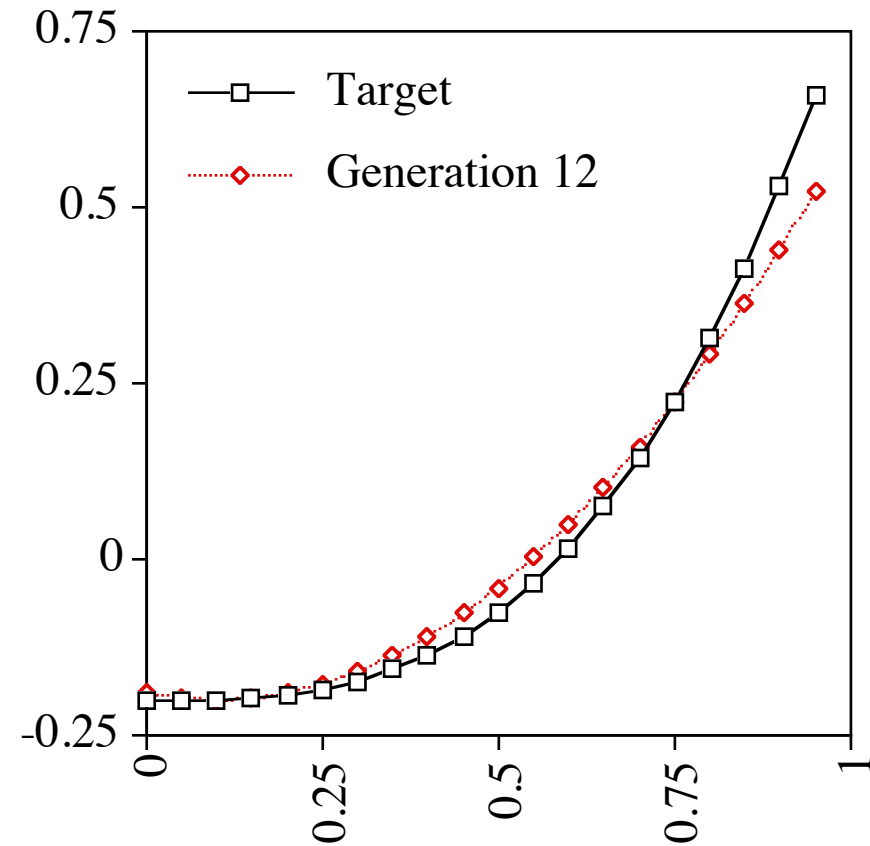
Best Program, Gen 5

```
(- (* (* (% X 0.1)
          (* 0.1 X))
    (- X
      (% 0.1 X)))
0.1)
```



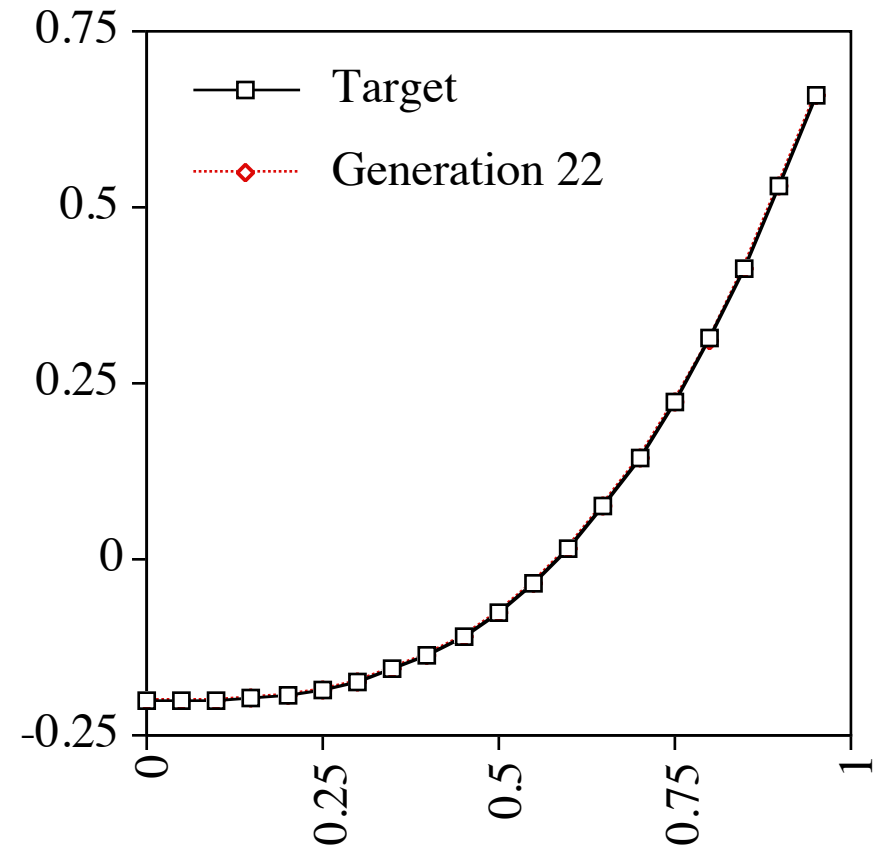
Best Program, Gen 12

```
(+ (- (- 0.1
      (- 0.1
        (- (* X X)
          (+ 0.1
            (- 0.1
              (* 0.1
                0.1)))))))
(* X
  (* (% 0.1
      (% (* (* (- 0.1 0.1)
              (+ X
                (- 0.1 0.1)))
        X)
      (+ X (+ (- X 0.1)
              (* X X))))))
(+ 0.1 (+ 0.1 X))))
(* X X))
```



Best Program, Gen 22

```
(- (- (* X (* X X))  
      0.1)  
  0.1)
```



Genetic Programming for Finite Algebras

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GOLD MEDAL

Everybody's Favorite Finite Algebra

Boolean algebra, $\mathbf{B} := \langle \{0, 1\}, \wedge, \vee, \neg \rangle$

\wedge	0	1
0	0	0
1	0	1

\vee	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	1

	\neg
0	1
1	0

Primal: every possible operation can be expressed by a term using only (and not even) \wedge , \vee , and \neg .

Bigger Finite Algebras

- Have applications in many areas of science, engineering, mathematics
- Can be *much* harder to analyze/understand
- Number of terms grows astronomically with size of underlying set

Goal

- Find terms that have certain special properties
- *Discriminator* terms, determine primality

$$t^A(x, y, z) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \neq y \\ z & \text{if } x = y \end{cases}$$

- *Mal'cev, majority, and Pixley* terms
- For decades there was no way to produce these terms in general, short of exhaustive search
- Current best methods produce enormous terms

Algebras Explored

$\begin{array}{c ccc} \mathbf{A}_1 * & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ \hline 0 & 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c ccc} \mathbf{A}_2 * & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ \hline 0 & 2 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array}$
$\begin{array}{c ccc} \mathbf{A}_3 * & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c ccc} \mathbf{A}_4 * & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array}$
$\begin{array}{c ccc} \mathbf{A}_5 * & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c cccc} \mathbf{B}_1 * & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 \end{array}$

Results

- Discriminators for A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4, A_5
- Mal'cev and majority terms for B_1
- Example Mal'cev term for B_1 :

$$\begin{aligned} & (((((((((x*(y*x))*x)*z)*(z*x))*((x*(z*(x*(z*y)))))*z))*z) \\ & *z)*(z*((((x*((z*z)*x)*(z*x))) *x)*y)*((y*(z*(z*y))))* \\ & (((y*y)*x)*z))*(x*((z*z)*x)*(z*(x*(z*y)))))) \end{aligned}$$

Significance, Time

	Uninformed Search Expected Time (Trials)
3 element algebras Mal'cev Pixley/majority discriminator	5 seconds ($3^{15} \approx 10^7$) 1 hour ($3^{21} \approx 10^{10}$) 1 month ($3^{27} \approx 10^{13}$)
4 element algebras Mal'cev Pixley/majority discriminator	10^3 years ($4^{28} \approx 10^{17}$) 10^{10} years ($4^{40} \approx 10^{24}$) 10^{24} years ($4^{64} \approx 10^{38}$)

Significance, Time

	Uninformed Search Expected Time (Trials)	GP Time
3 element algebras Mal'cev Pixley/majority discriminator	5 seconds ($3^{15} \approx 10^7$) 1 hour ($3^{21} \approx 10^{10}$) 1 month ($3^{27} \approx 10^{13}$)	1 minute 3 minutes 5 minutes
4 element algebras Mal'cev Pixley/majority discriminator	10^3 years ($4^{28} \approx 10^{17}$) 10^{10} years ($4^{40} \approx 10^{24}$) 10^{24} years ($4^{64} \approx 10^{38}$)	30 minutes 2 hours ?

Significance, Size

Term Type	Primality Theorem
Mal'cev	10,060,219
Majority	6,847,499
Pixley	1,257,556,499
Discriminator	12,575,109

(for A_1)

Significance, Size

Term Type	Primality Theorem	GP
Mal'cev	10,060,219	12
Majority	6,847,499	49
Pixley	1,257,556,499	59
Discriminator	12,575,109	39

(for A_1)

Human Competitive?

- Rather: human-**WHOMPING!**
- *Outperforms humans and all other known methods on significant problems, providing benefits of several orders of magnitude with respect to search speed and result size*
- Because there were no prior methods for generating practical terms in practical amounts of time, GP has provided the first solution to a previously open problem in the field

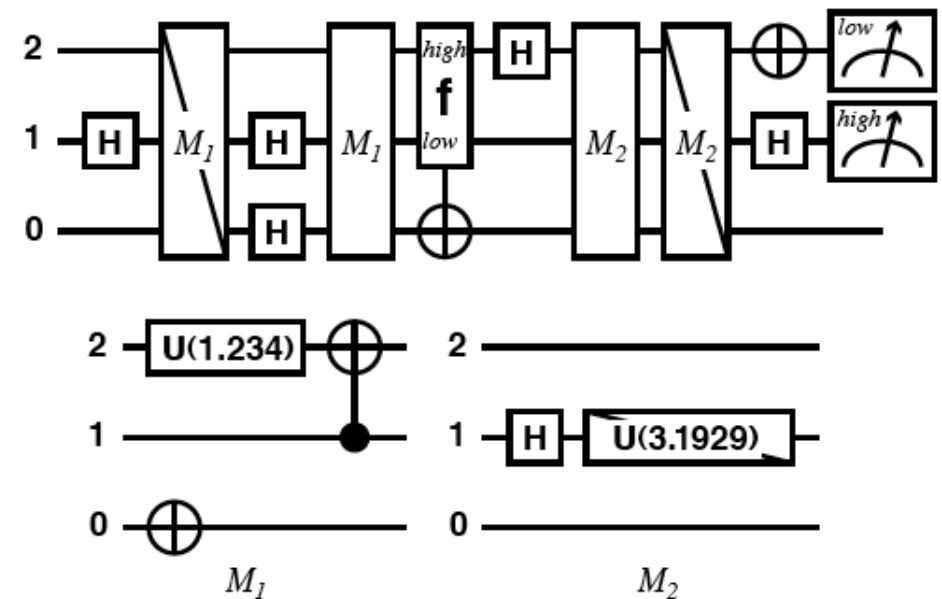
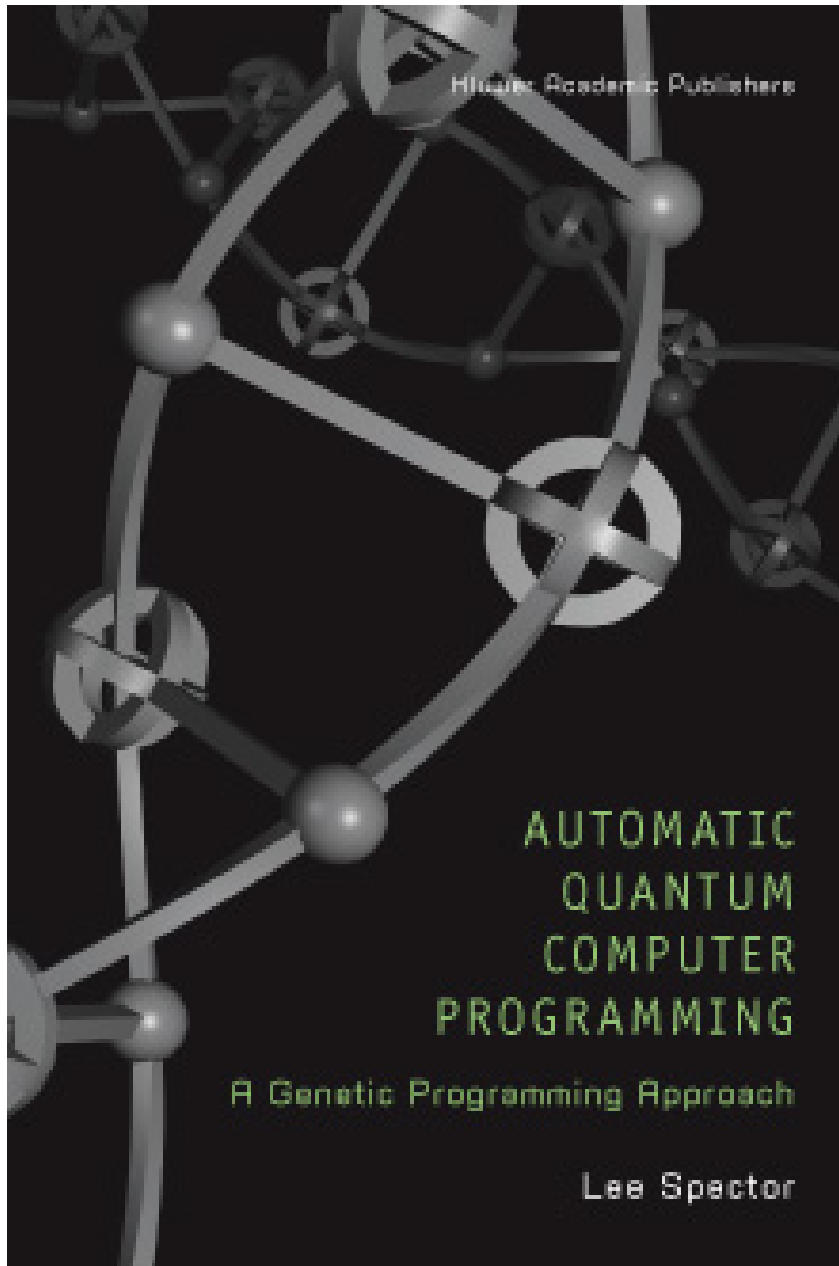


Figure 8.7. A gate array diagram for an evolved version of Grover's database search algorithm for a 4-item database. The full gate array is shown at the top, with M_1 and M_2 standing for the smaller gate arrays shown at the bottom. A diagonal line through a gate symbol indicates that the matrix for the gate is transposed. The "f" gate is the oracle.

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Expressive Languages

- Strongly typed genetic programming
- Automatically defined functions
- Automatically defined macros
- Architecture-altering operations
- Developmental genetic programming

Expressive Languages

- Strongly typed genetic programming
- Automatically defined functions
- Automatically defined macros
- Architecture-altering operations
- Developmental genetic programming
- Push provides all of the above and more, all without any mechanisms beyond the stack-based execution architecture

Why Push?

- Multiple data types
- User-defined procedures & functions
- User-defined macros & control structures
- User-defined representations
- Dynamic definition & redefinition
- All of the above provided without any mechanisms beyond the stack-based execution architecture

And I won't even mention

- Automatic simplification
- Autoconstructive evolution
- Iterators and combinators
- Code self reference
- Ontogenetic programming
- etc. See <http://hampshire.edu/lspector/push.html>

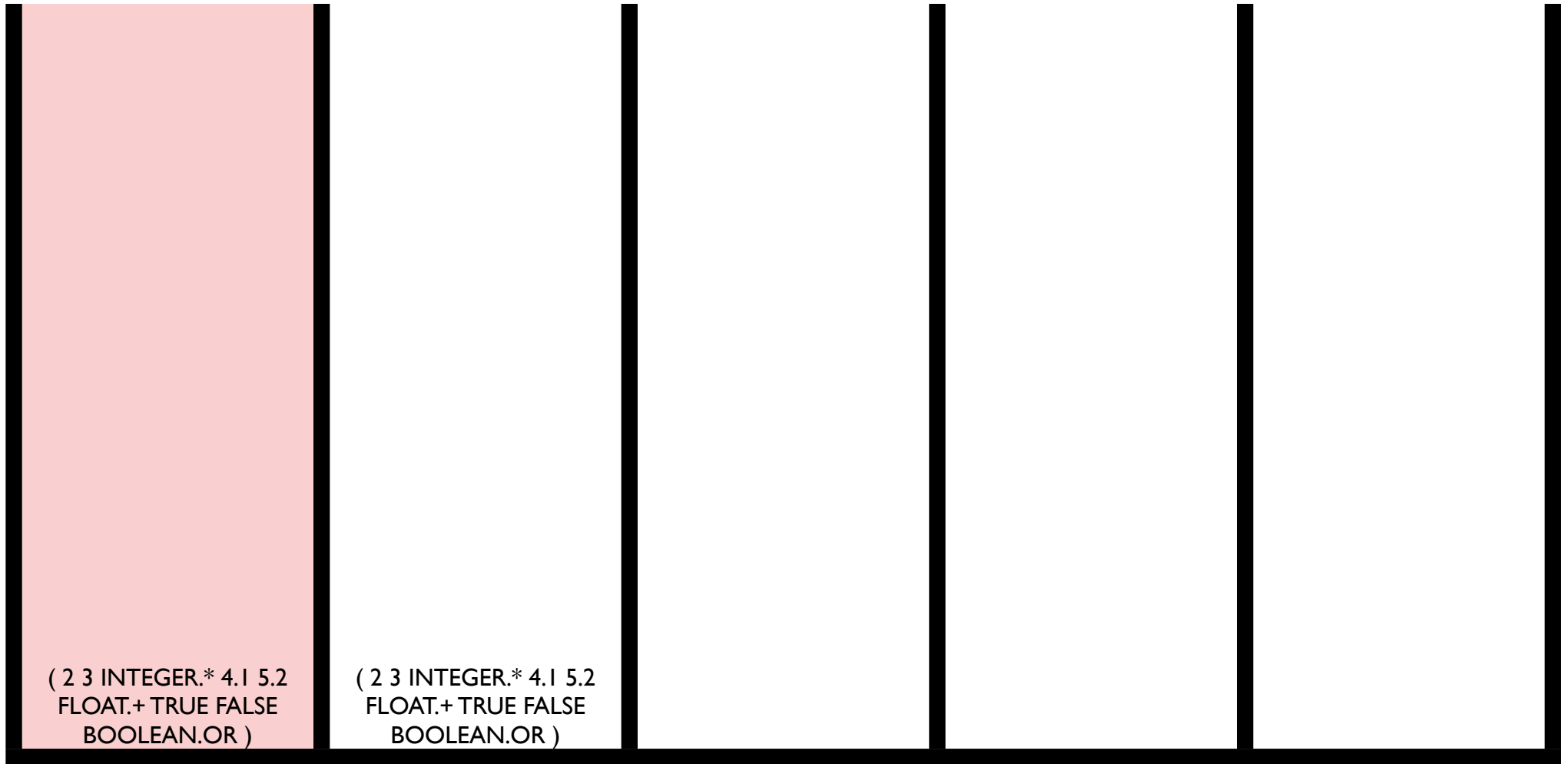
Push

- Stack-based postfix language with one stack per type
- Types include: integer, float, Boolean, name, **code**, **exec**, vector, matrix, quantum gate, [add more as needed]
- Missing argument? NOOP
- Trivial syntax:
program \rightarrow instruction | literal | (program*)

Push(3) Semantics

- To execute program P :
 1. Push P onto the EXEC stack.
 2. While the EXEC stack is not empty, pop and process the top element of the EXEC stack, E :
 - (a) If E is an instruction: execute E (accessing whatever stacks are required).
 - (b) If E is a literal: push E onto the appropriate stack.
 - (c) If E is a list: push each element of E onto the EXEC stack, in reverse order.

```
( 2 3 INTEGER.* 4.1 5.2 FLOAT.+  
TRUE FALSE BOOLEAN.OR )
```



exec

code

bool

int

float

2

3

INTEGER.*

4.1

5.2

FLOAT.+

TRUE

FALSE

BOOLEAN.OR

(2 3 INTEGER.* 4.1 5.2
FLOAT.+ TRUE FALSE
BOOLEAN.OR)

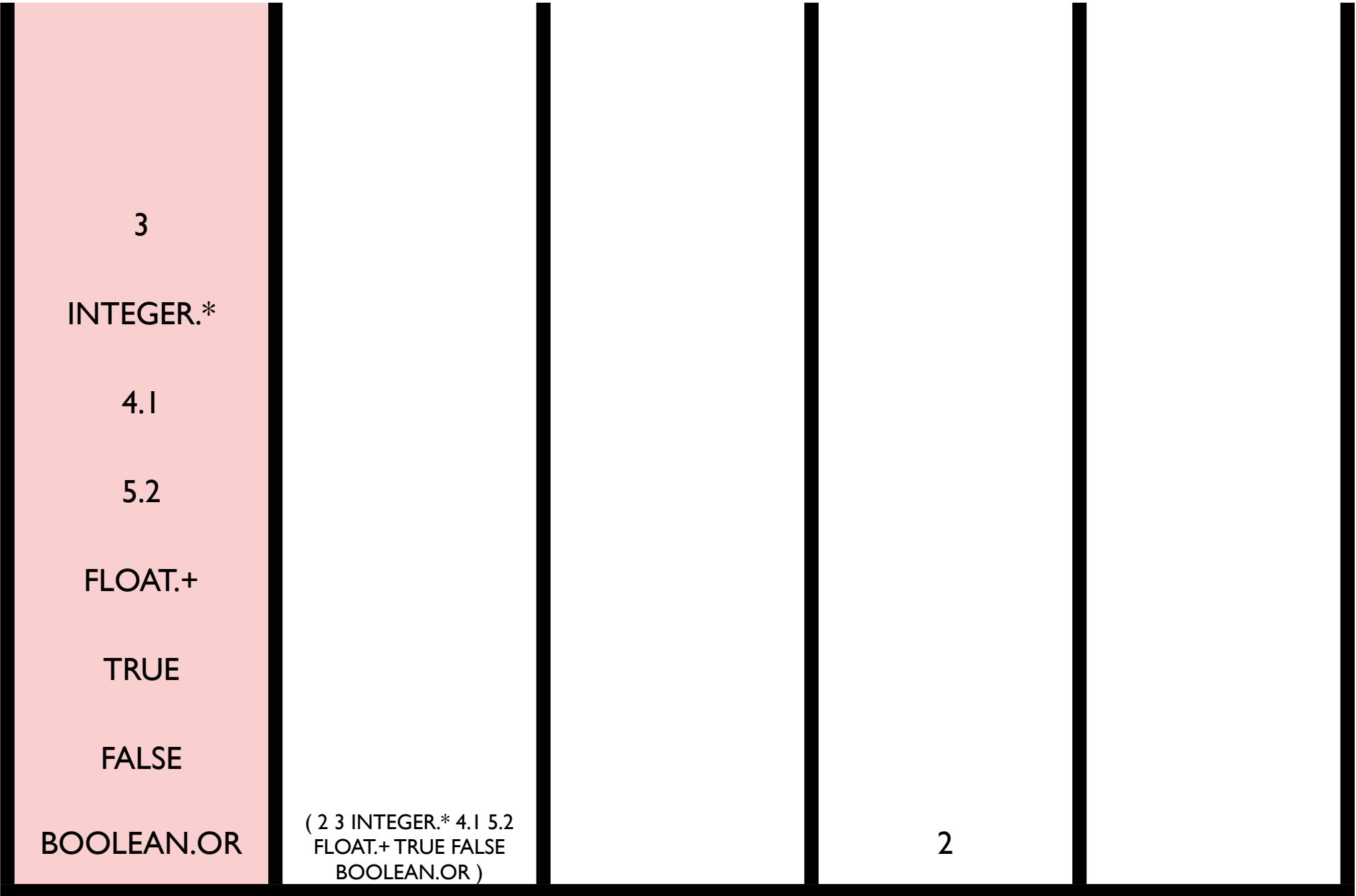
exec

code

bool

int

float



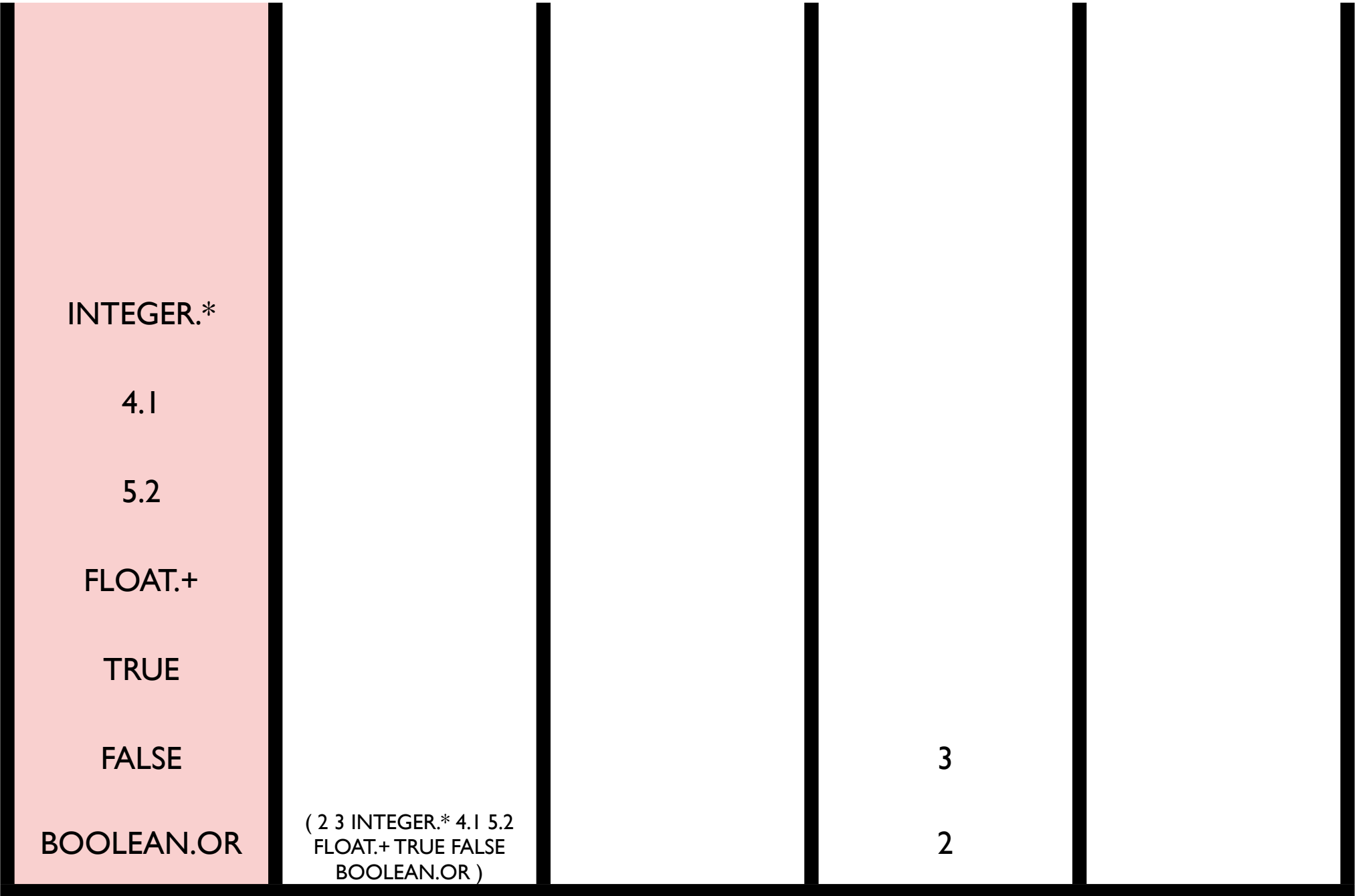
exec

code

bool

int

float



exec

code

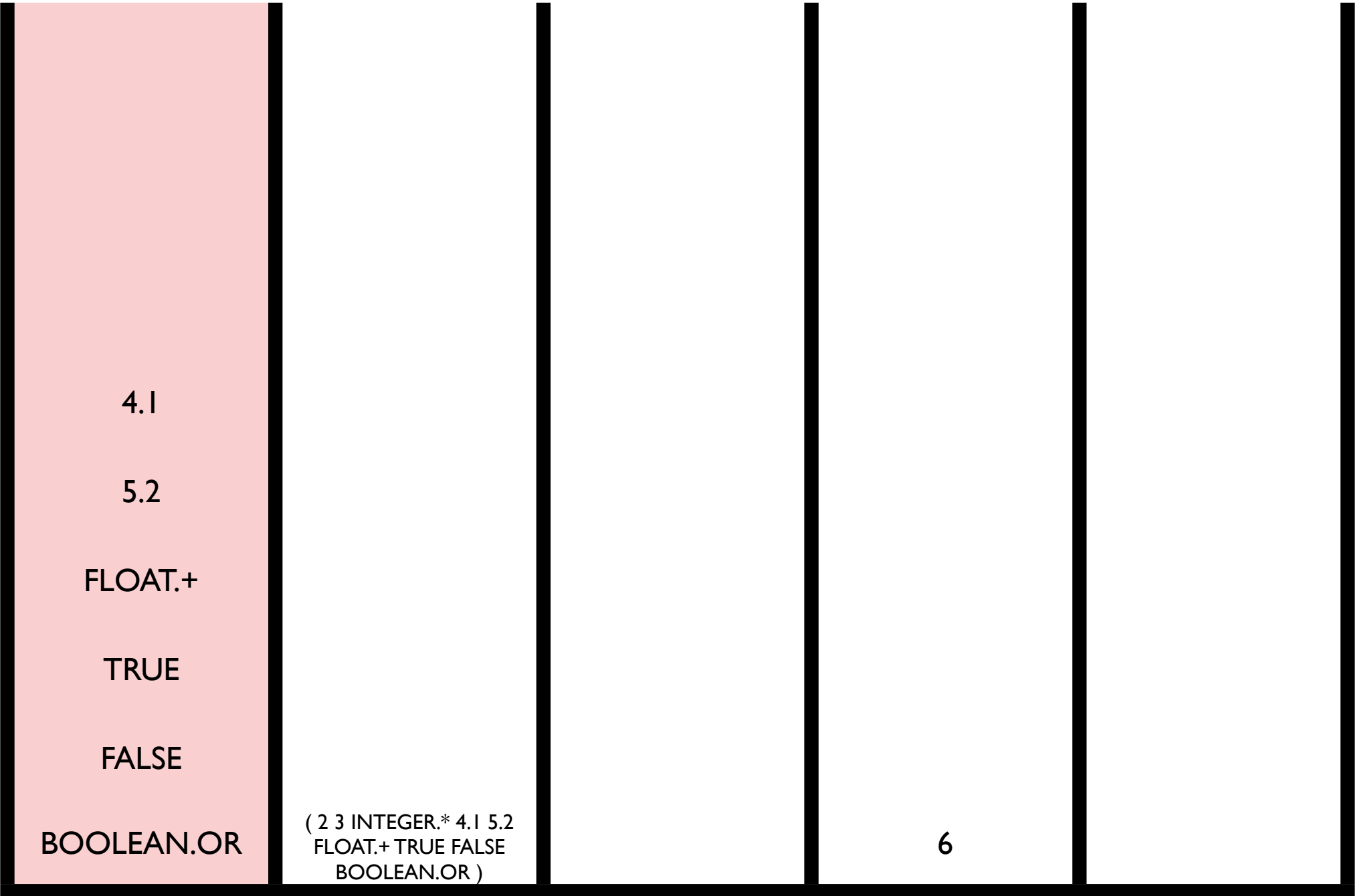
bool

int

float

3

2



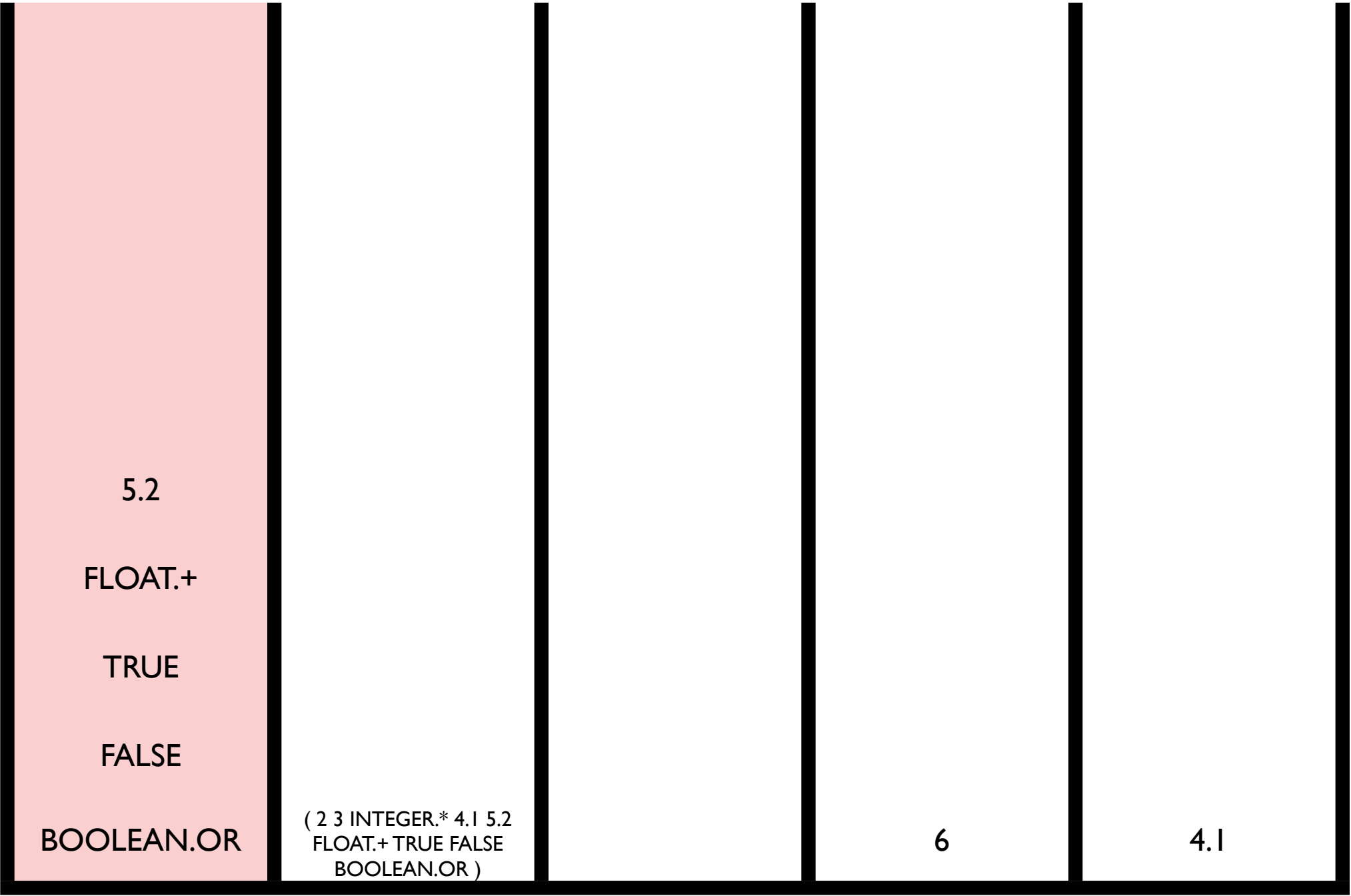
exec

code

bool

int

float



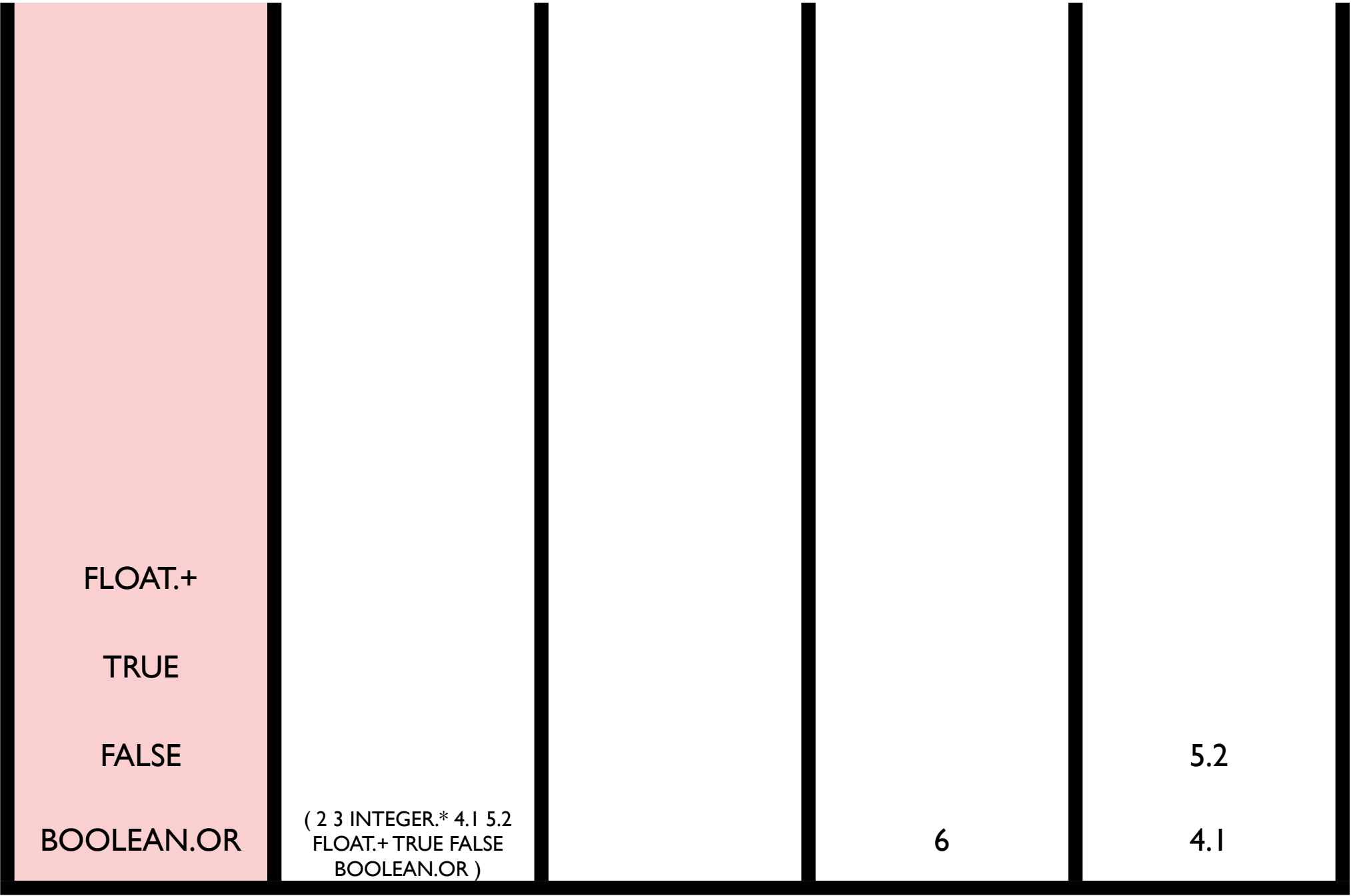
exec

code

bool

int

float



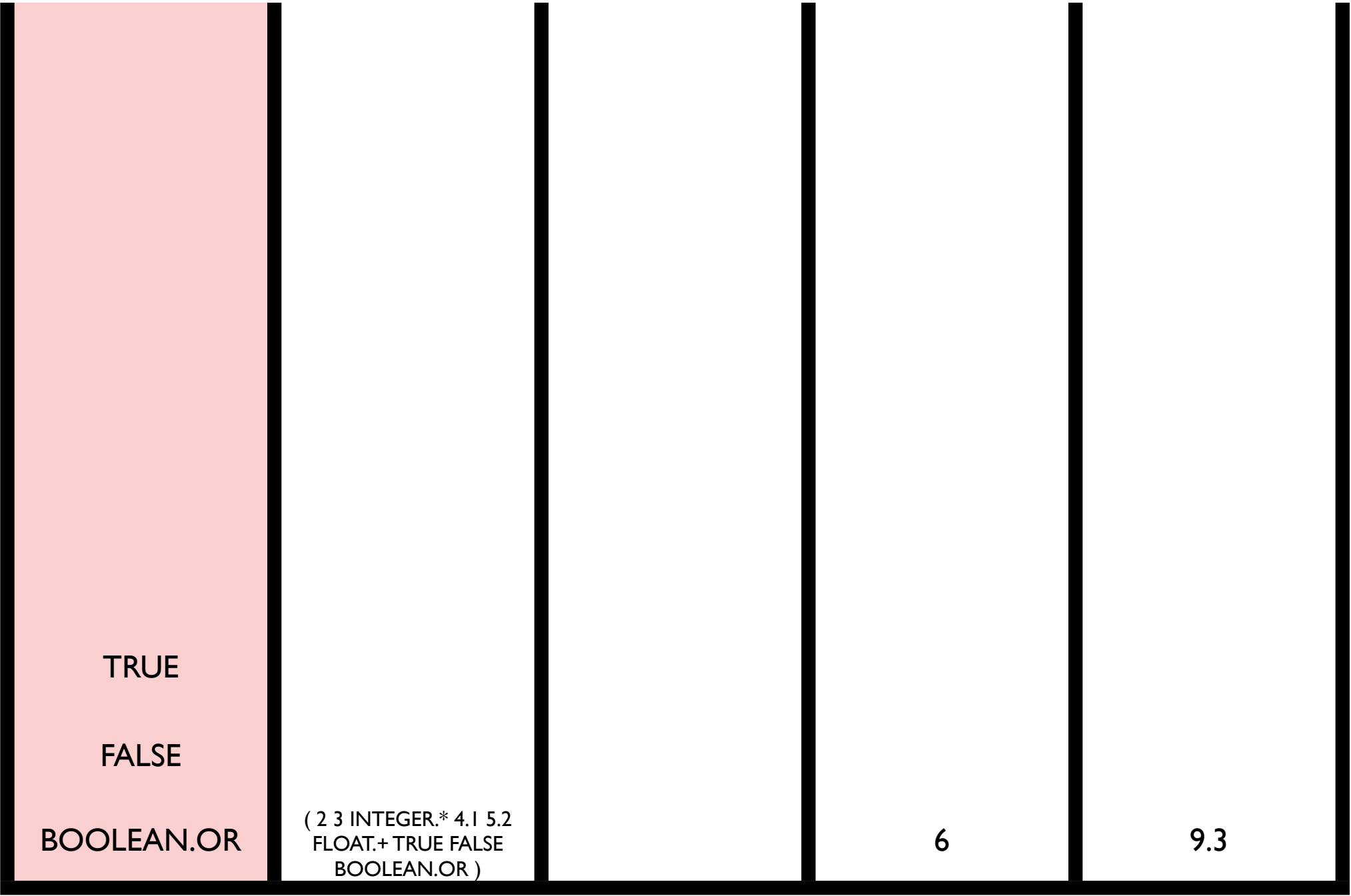
exec

code

bool

int

float



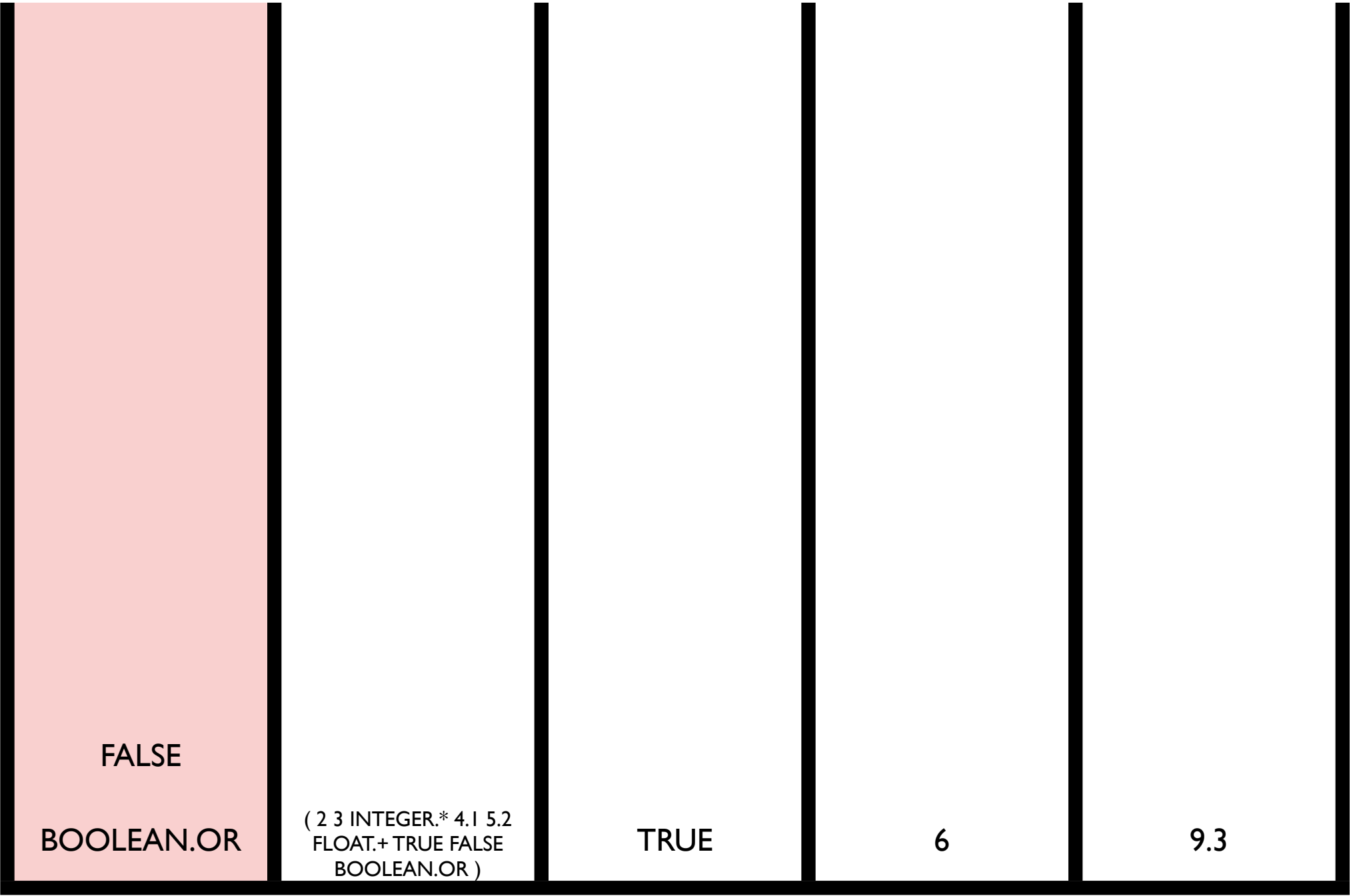
exec

code

bool

int

float



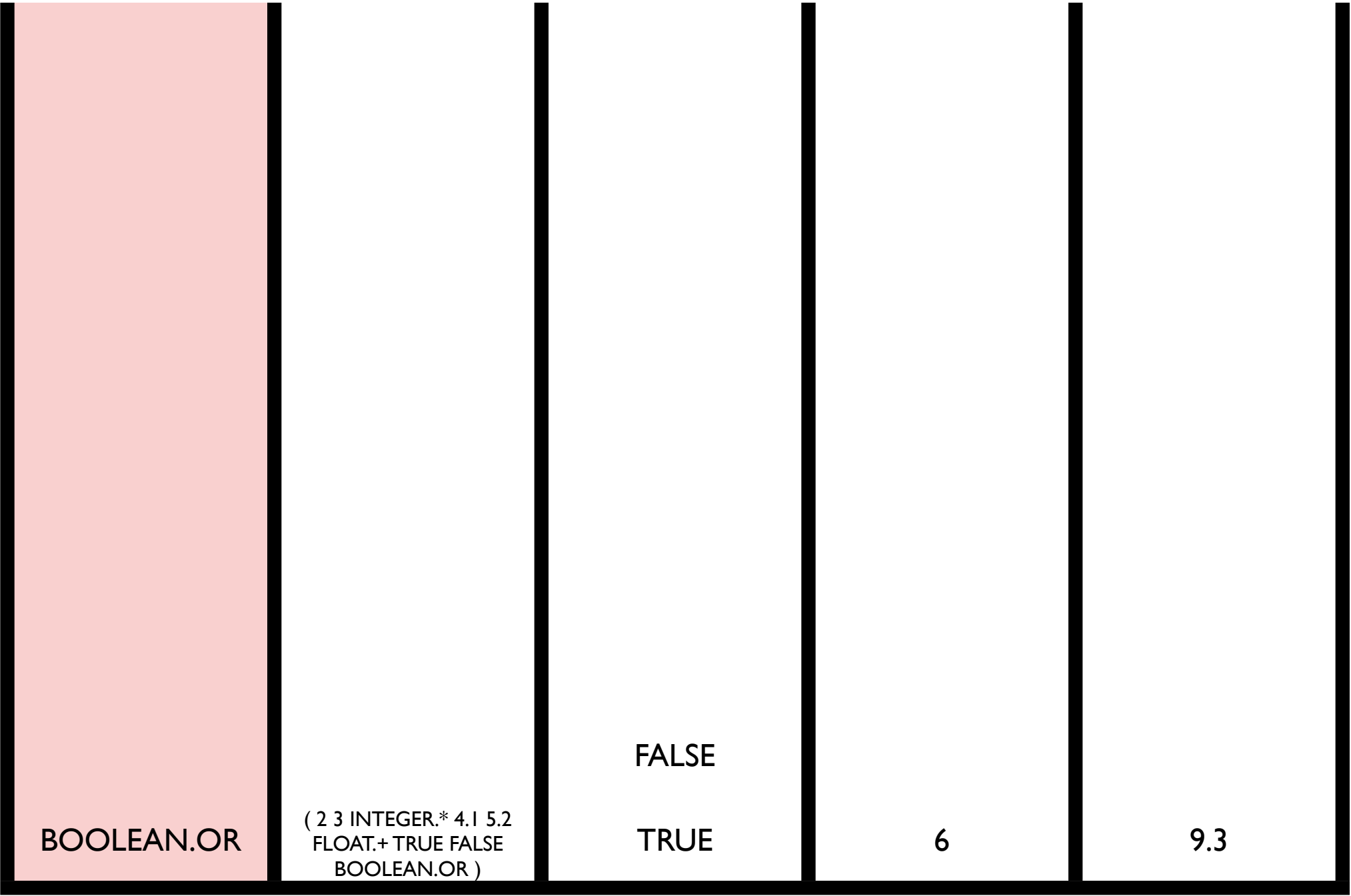
exec

code

bool

int

float



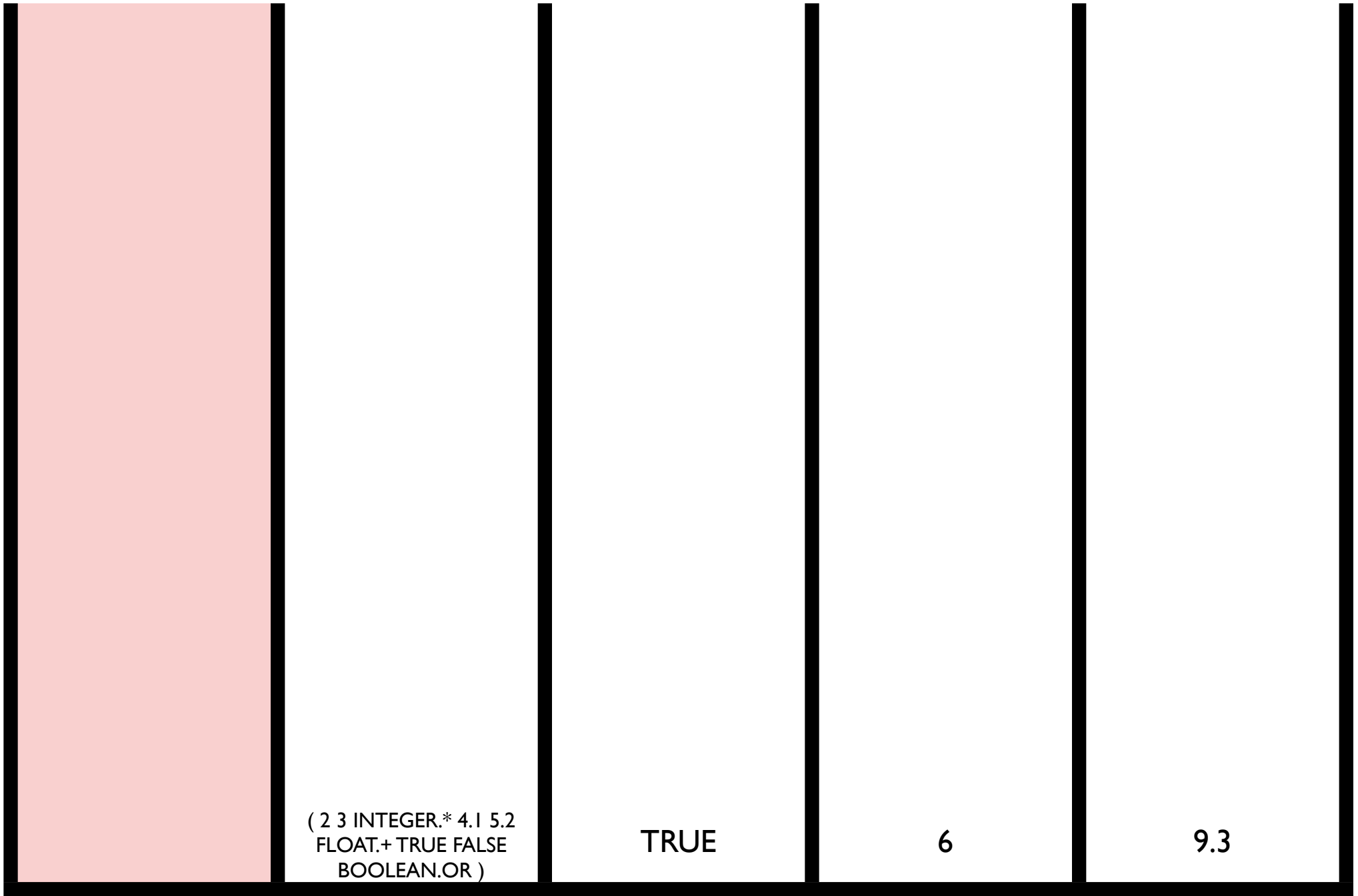
exec

code

bool

int

float



exec

code

bool

int

float

Same Results

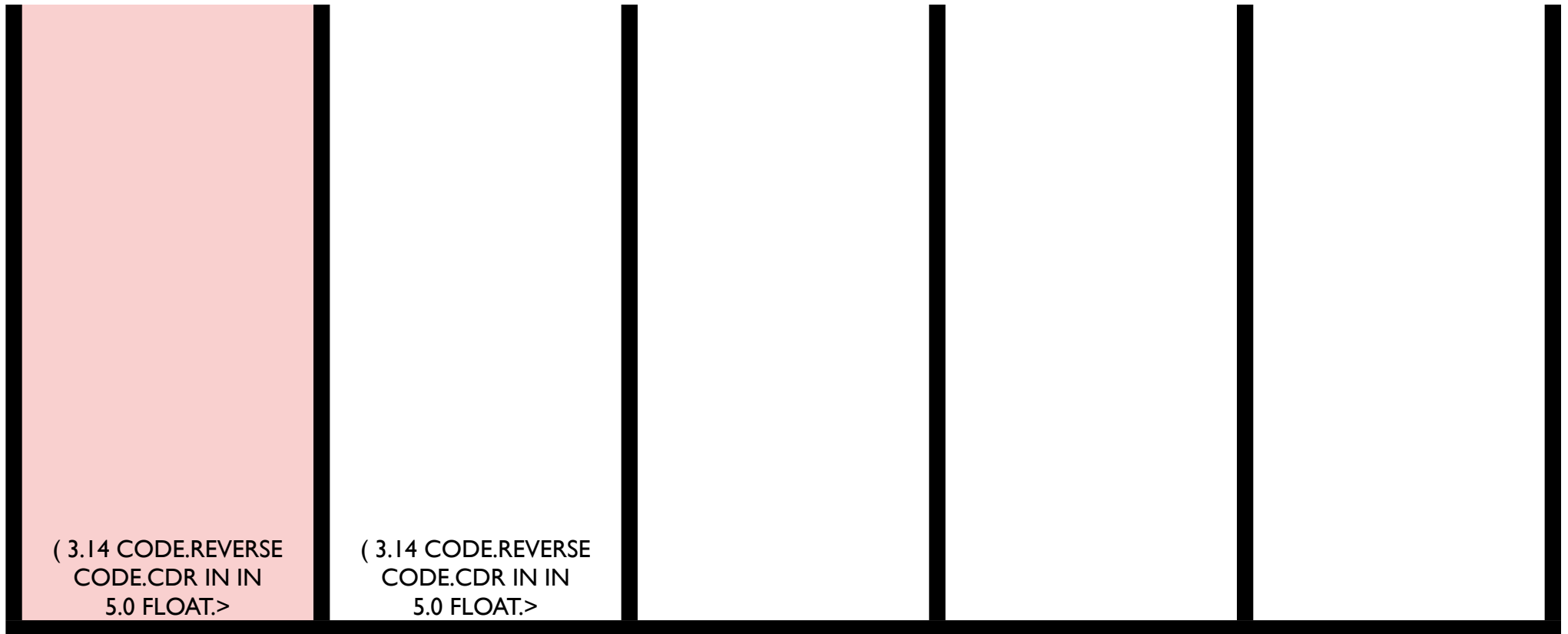
```
( 2 3 INTEGER.* 4.1 5.2 FLOAT.+  
  TRUE FALSE BOOLEAN.OR )
```

```
( 2 BOOLEAN.AND 4.1 TRUE INTEGER./ FALSE  
  3 5.2 BOOLEAN.OR INTEGER.* FLOAT.+ )
```



```
( 3.14 CODE.REVERSE CODE.CDR IN IN 5.0  
FLOAT.> (CODE.QUOTE FLOAT.*) CODE.IF )
```

IN=4.0



exec

code

bool

int

float

3.14

CODE.REVERSE

CODE.CDR

IN

IN

5.0

FLOAT.>

(CODE.QUOTE FLOAT.*)

CODE.IF

(3.14 CODE.REVERSE
CODE.CDR IN IN
5.0 FLOAT.>

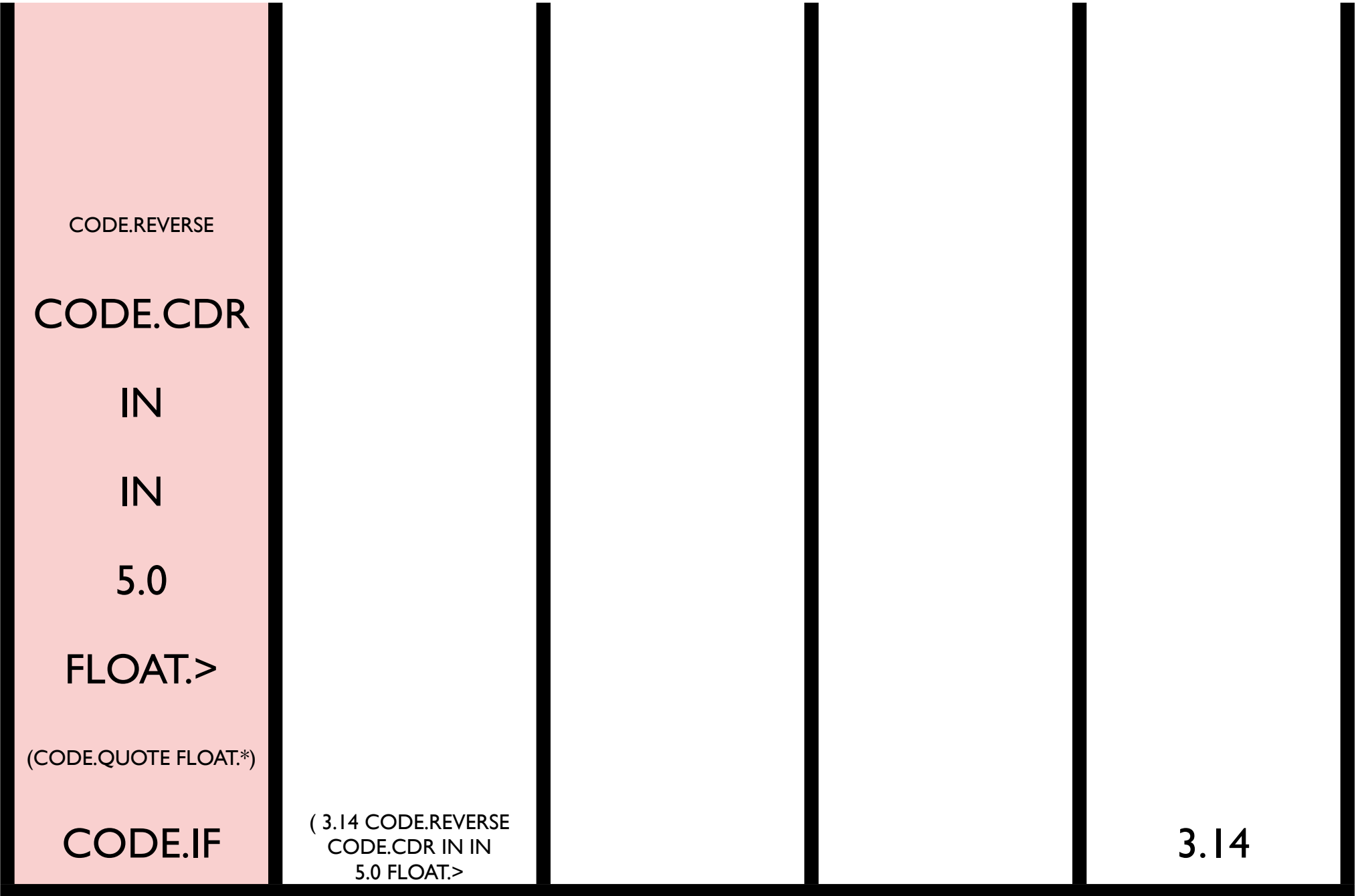
exec

code

bool

int

float



exec

code

bool

int

float

CODE.CDR

IN

IN

5.0

FLOAT.>

(CODE.QUOTE FLOAT.*)

CODE.IF

(CODE.IF (CODE.QUOTE
FLOAT.*) FLOAT.> 5.0 IN
IN CODE.CDR

3.14

exec

code

bool

int

float

IN

IN

5.0

FLOAT.>

(CODE.QUOTE FLOAT.*)

CODE.IF

((CODE.QUOTE FLOAT.*)
FLOAT.> 5.0 IN IN
CODE.CDR

3.14

exec

code

bool

int

float

IN

5.0

FLOAT.>

(CODE.QUOTE FLOAT.*)

CODE.IF

((CODE.QUOTE FLOAT.*)
FLOAT.> 5.0 IN IN
CODE.CDR

4.0

3.14

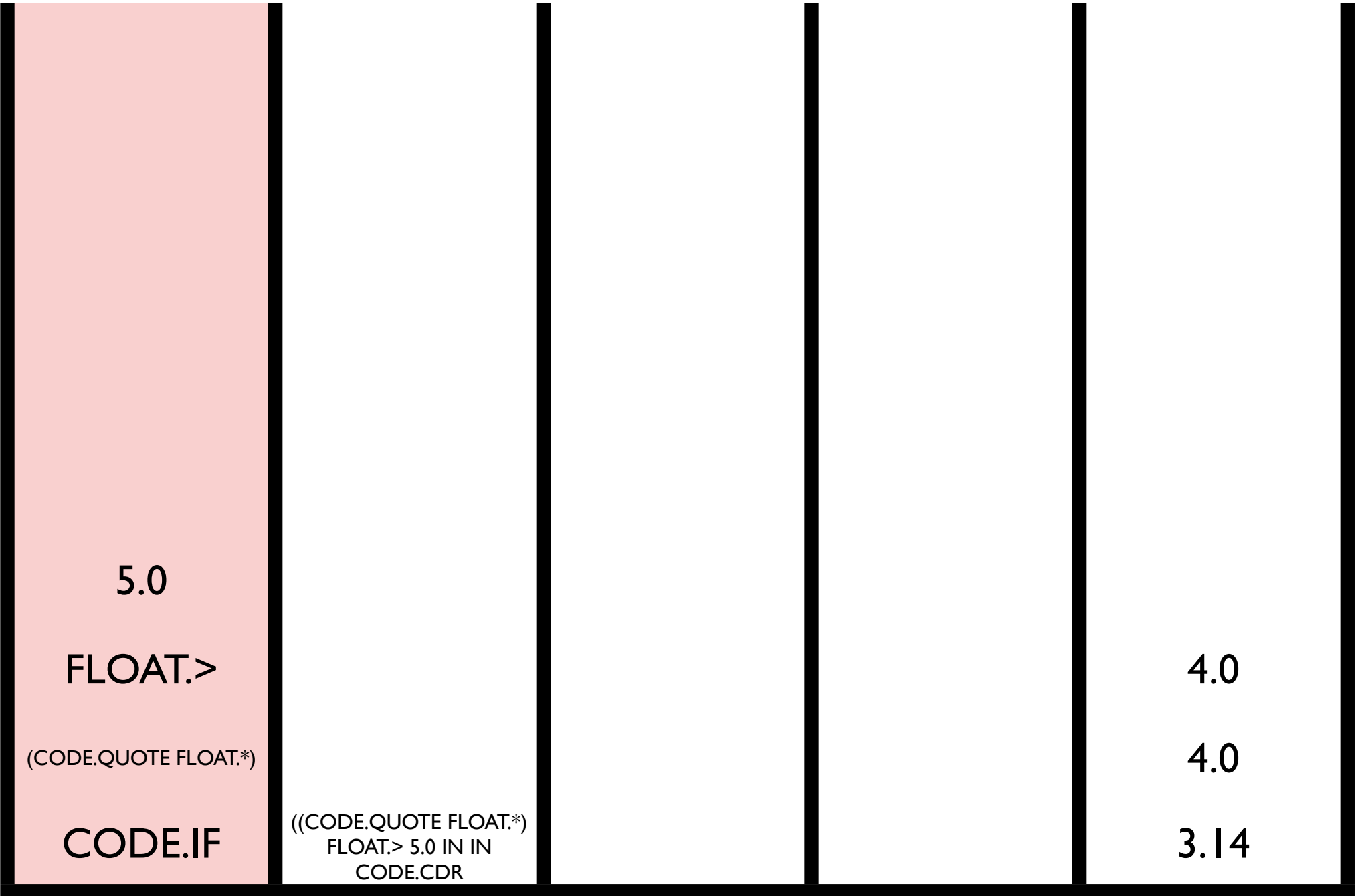
exec

code

bool

int

float



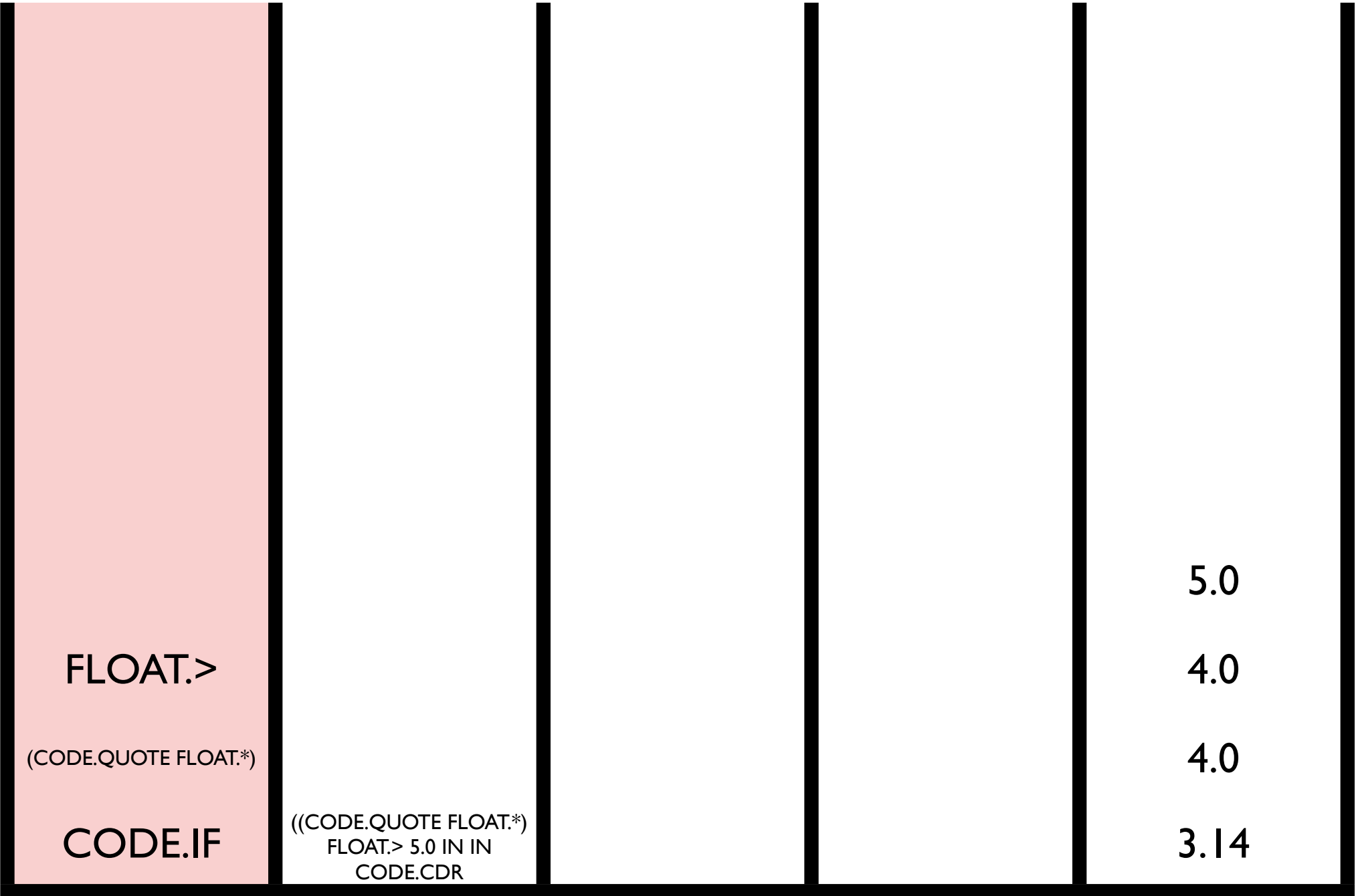
exec

code

bool

int

float



exec

code

bool

int

float

(CODE.QUOTE FLOAT.*)

CODE.IF

((CODE.QUOTE FLOAT.*)
FLOAT.> 5.0 IN IN
CODE.CDR

FALSE

4.0

3.14

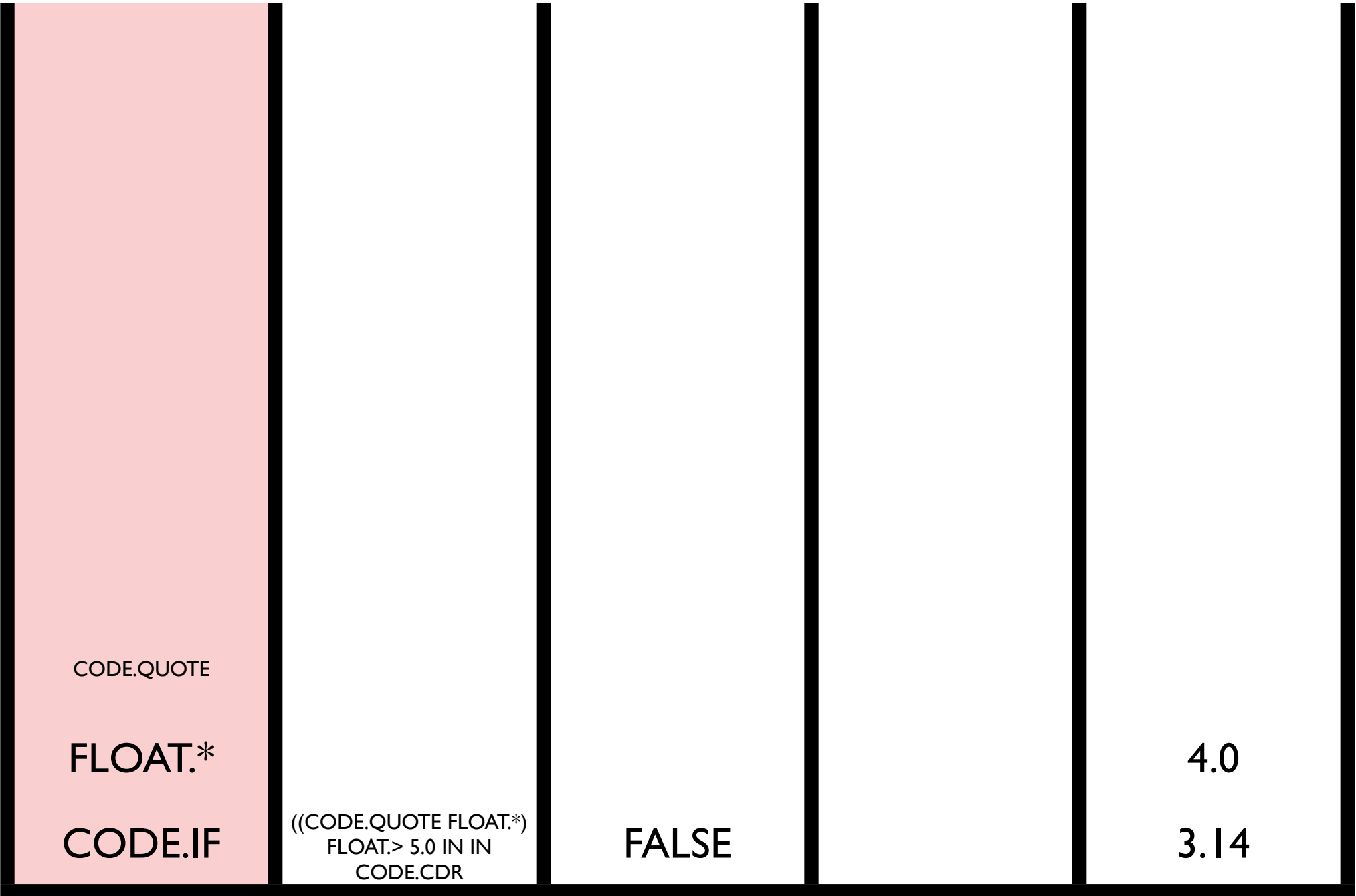
exec

code

bool

int

float



exec

code

bool

int

float

CODE.IF

FLOAT.*
((CODE.QUOTE FLOAT.*)
FLOAT.> 5.0 IN IN
CODE.CDR

FALSE

4.0
3.14

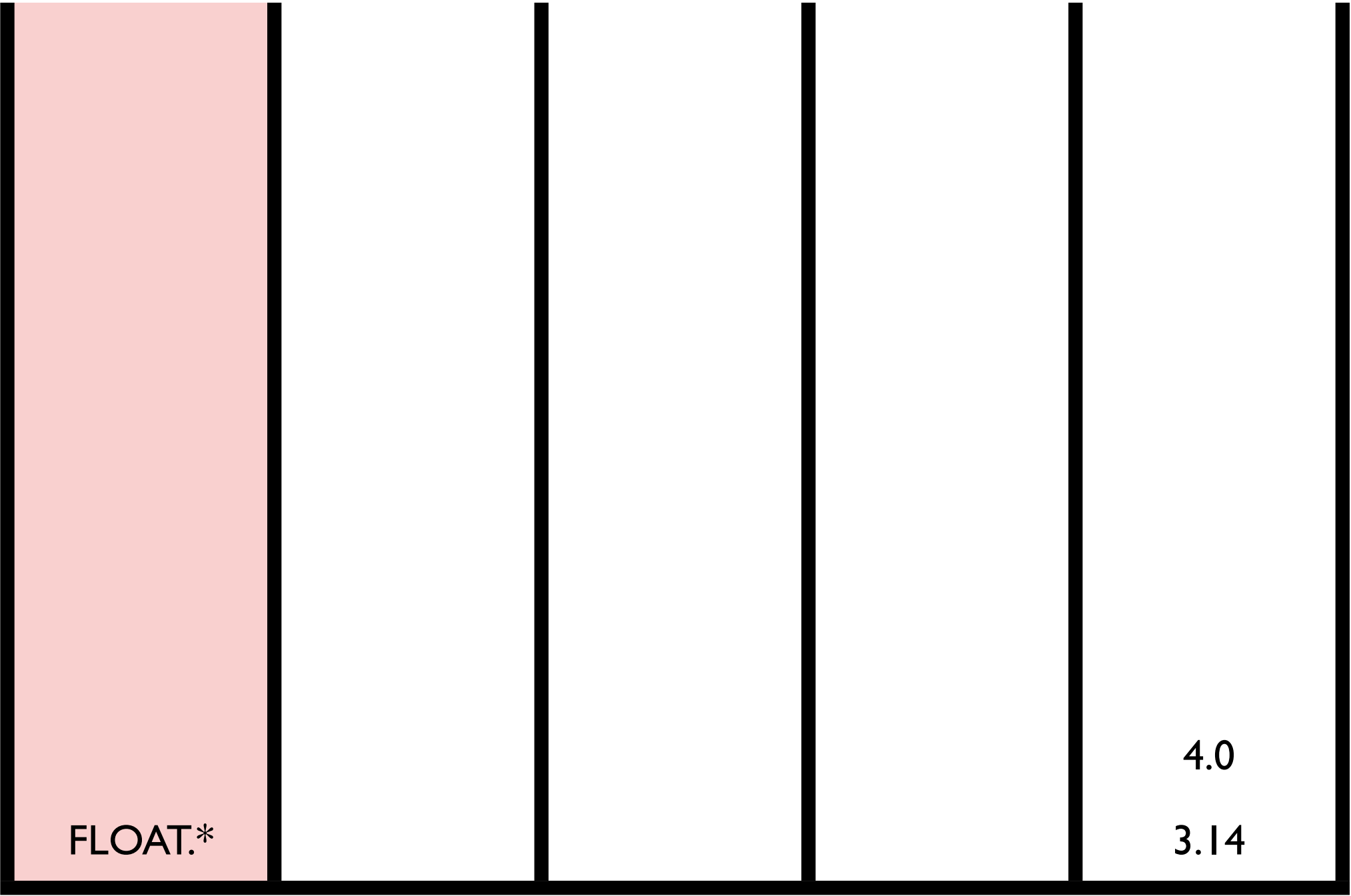
exec

code

bool

int

float



FLOAT.*

4.0

3.14

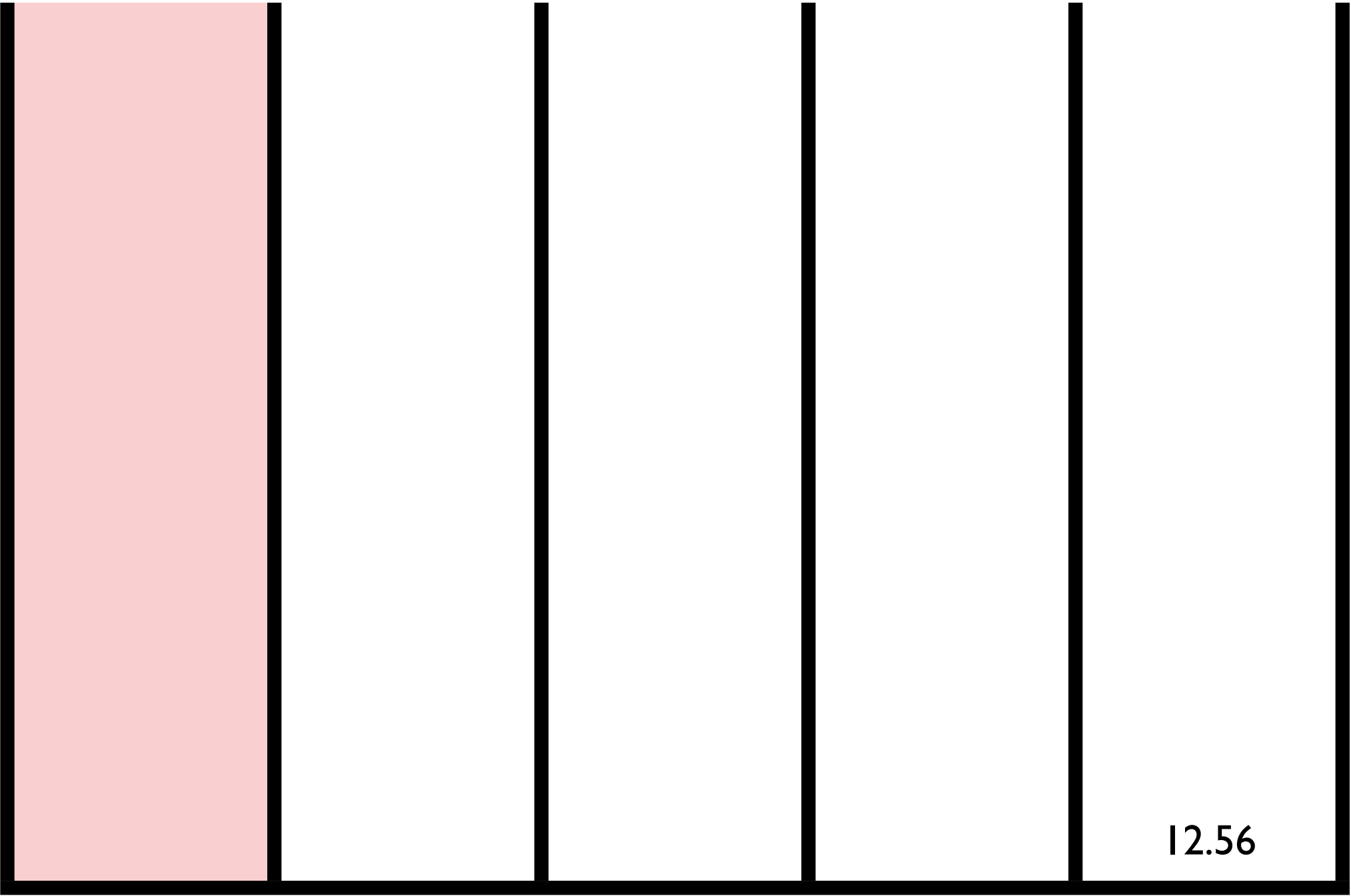
exec

code

bool

int

float



exec

code

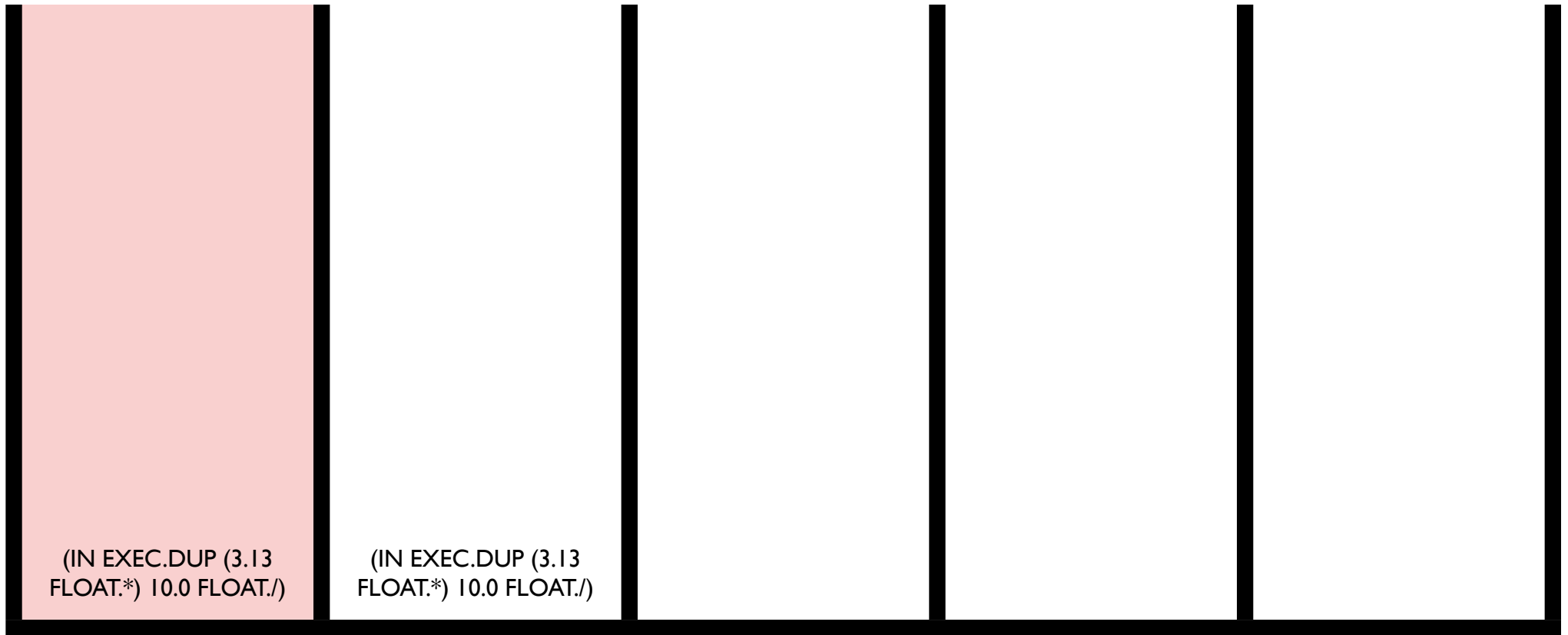
bool

int

float

(IN EXEC.DUP (3.13 FLOAT.*)
10.0 FLOAT./)

IN=4.0



(IN EXEC.DUP (3.13
FLOAT.*) 10.0 FLOAT./)

(IN EXEC.DUP (3.13
FLOAT.*) 10.0 FLOAT./)

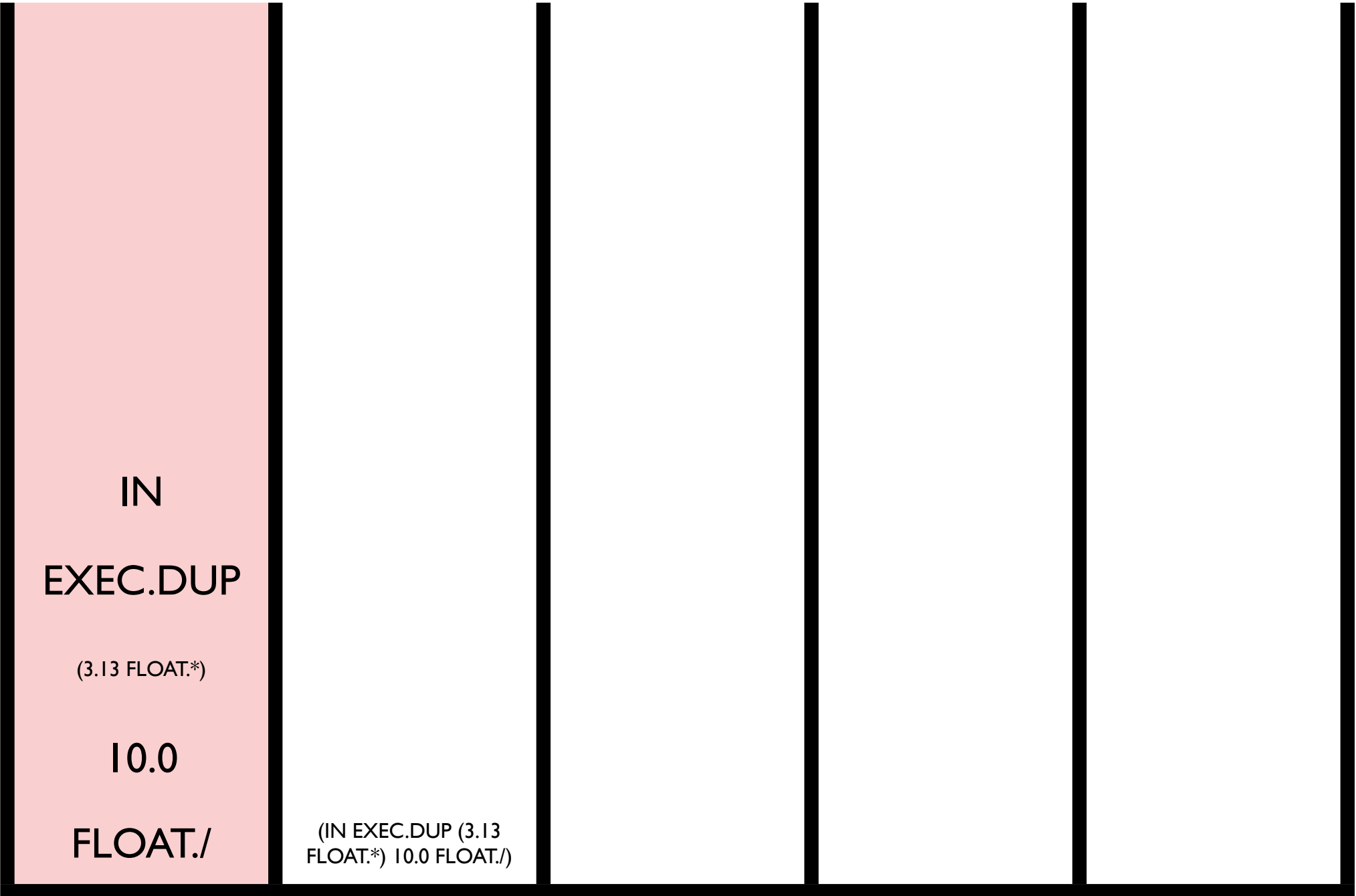
exec

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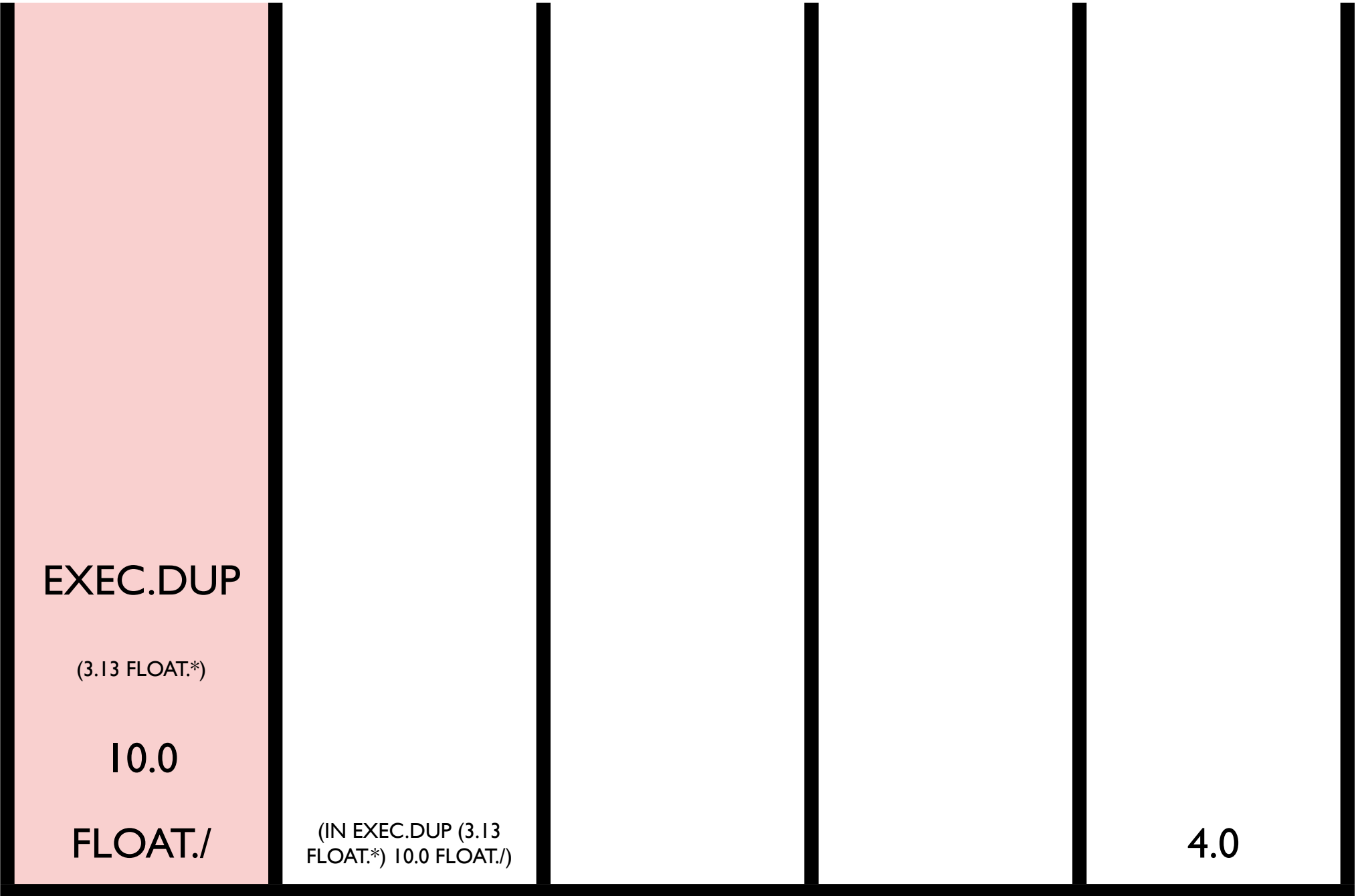
exec

code

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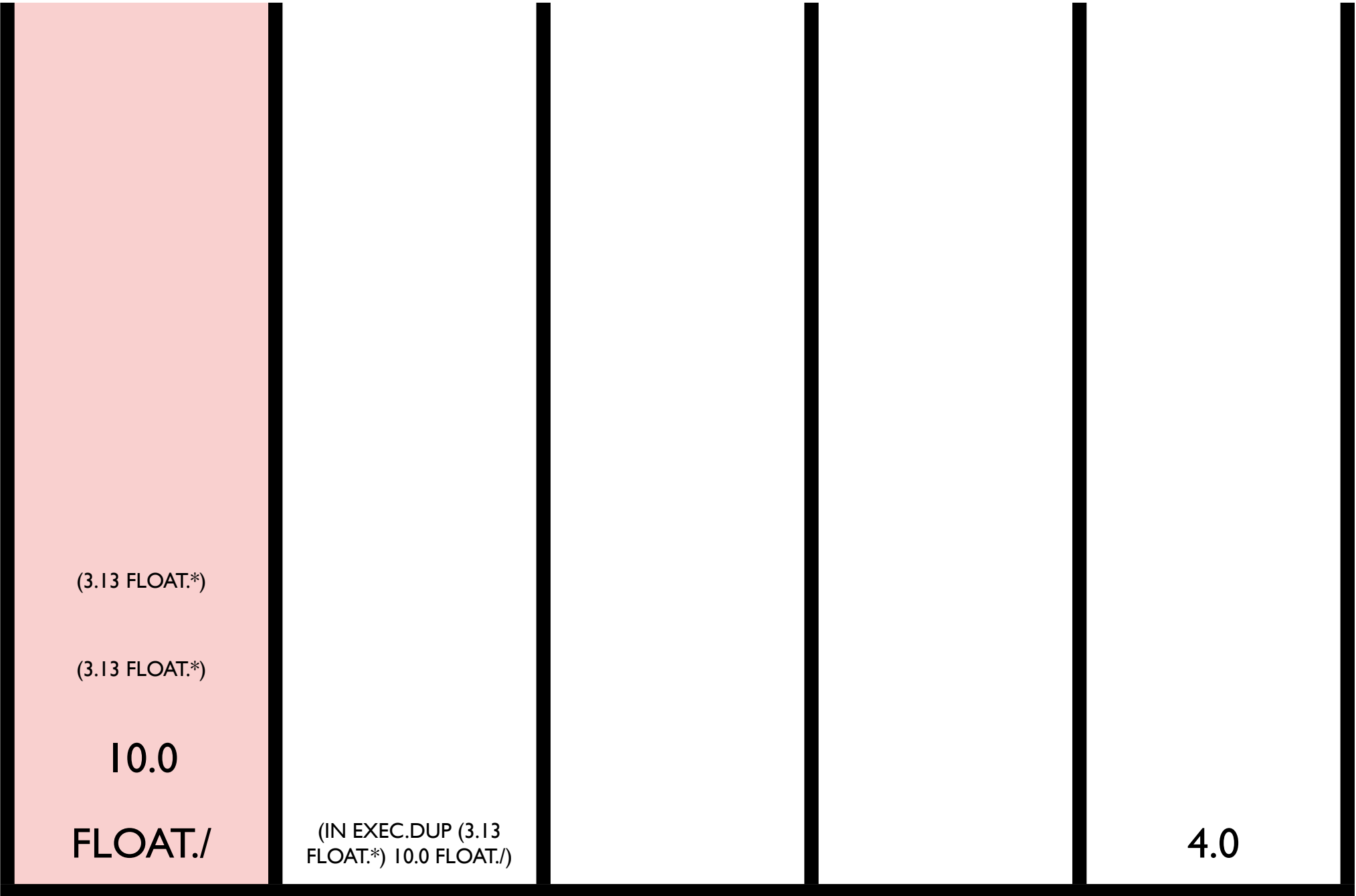
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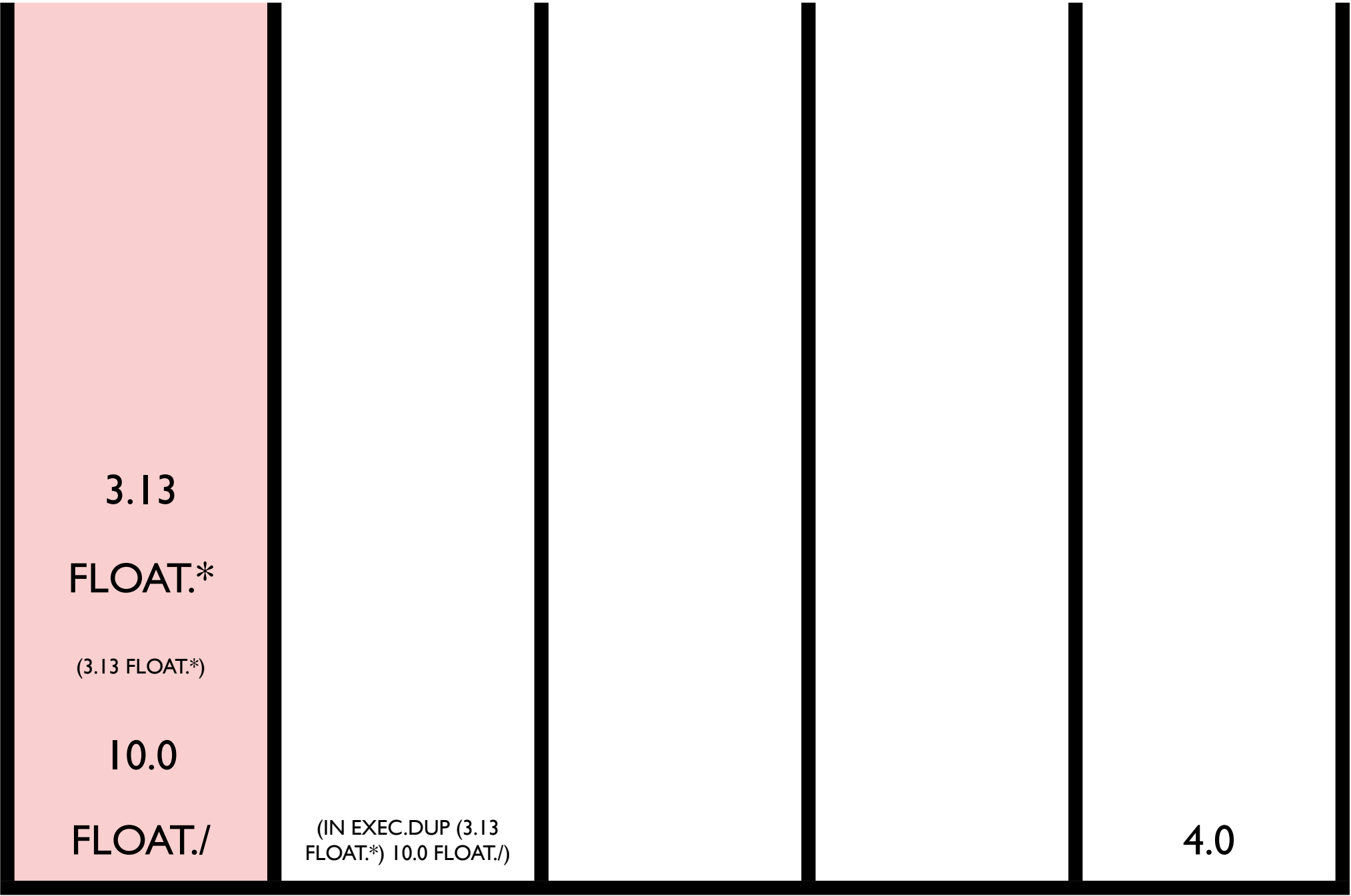
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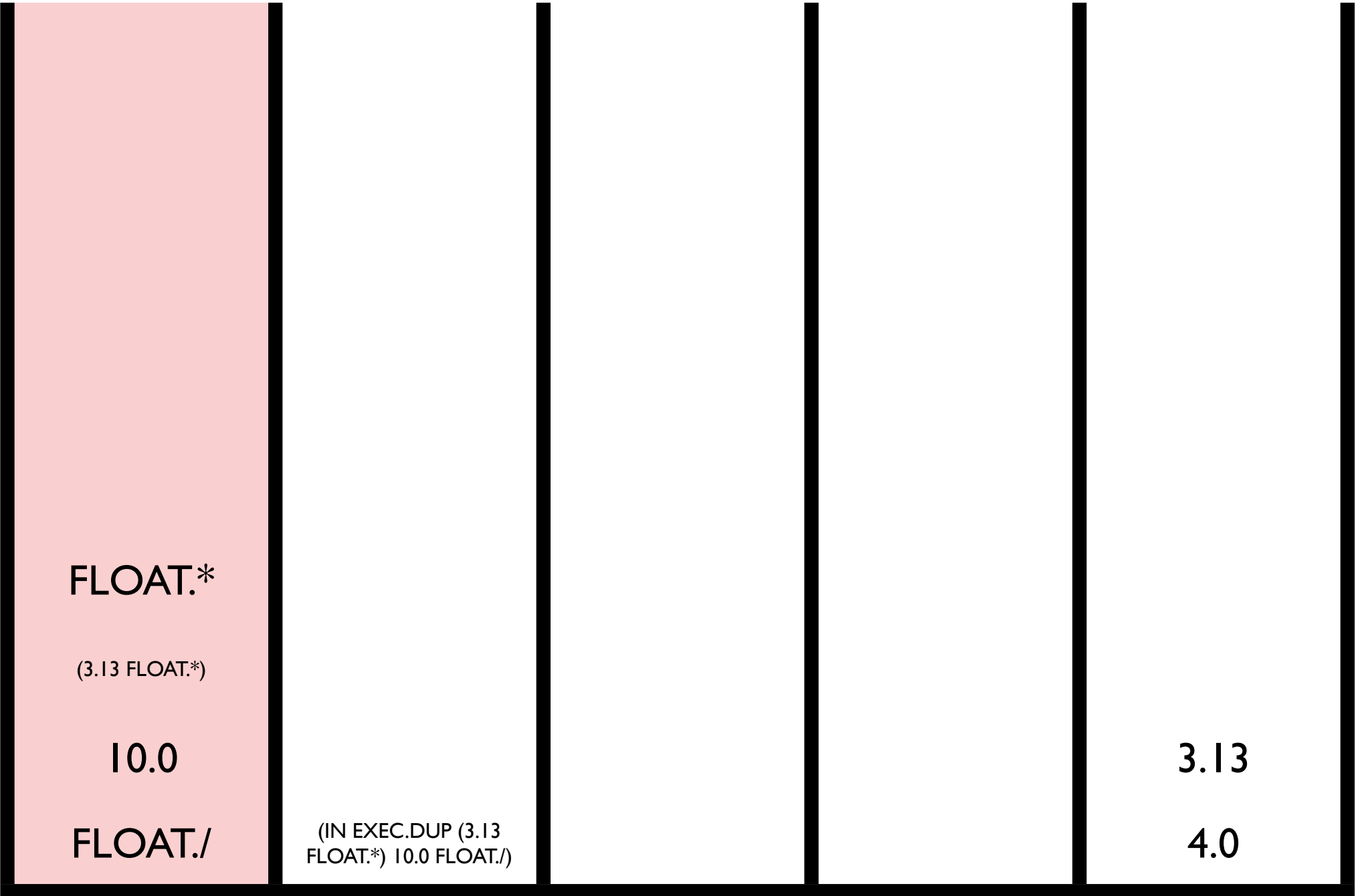
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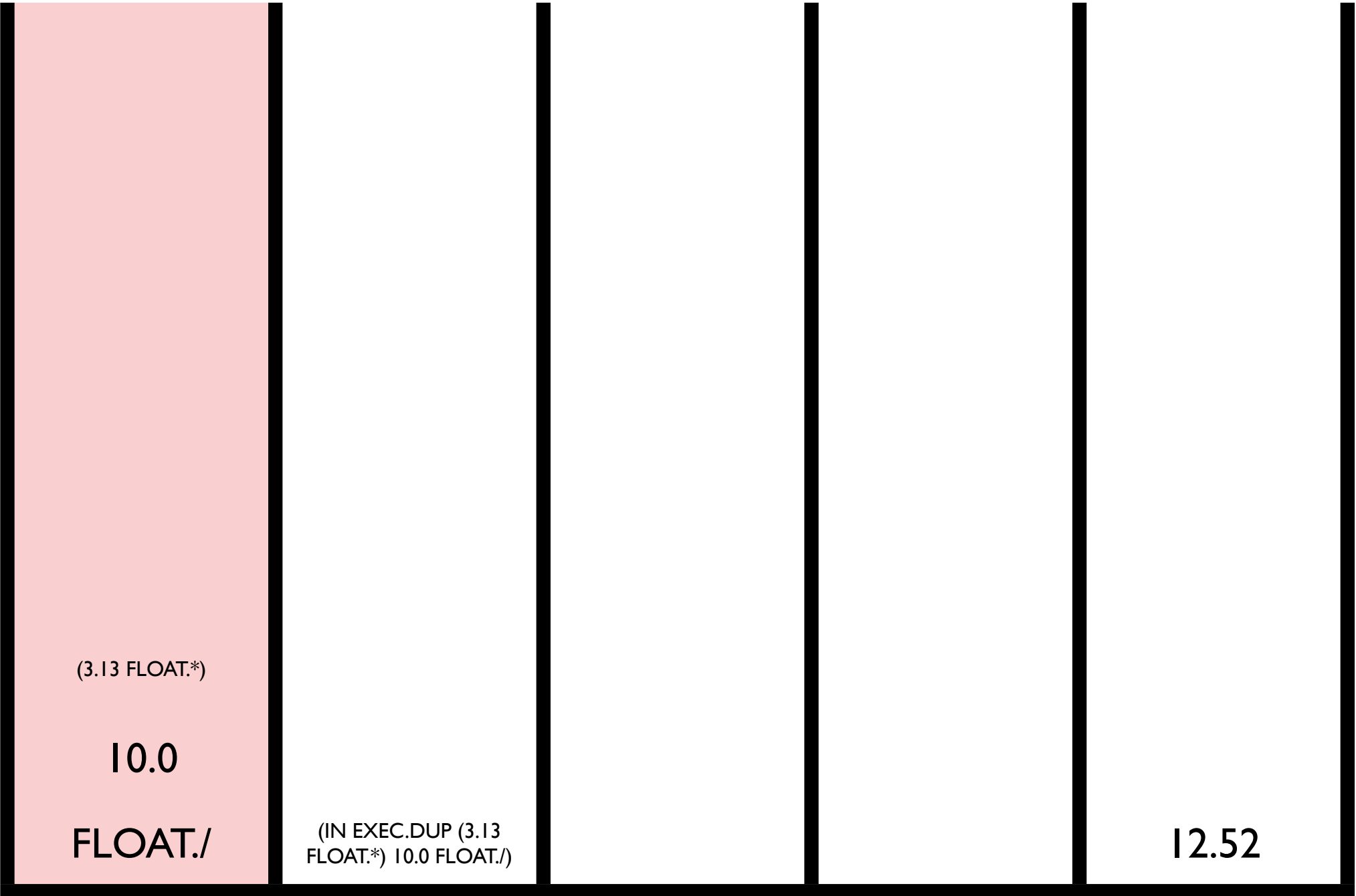
exec

code

bool

int

float



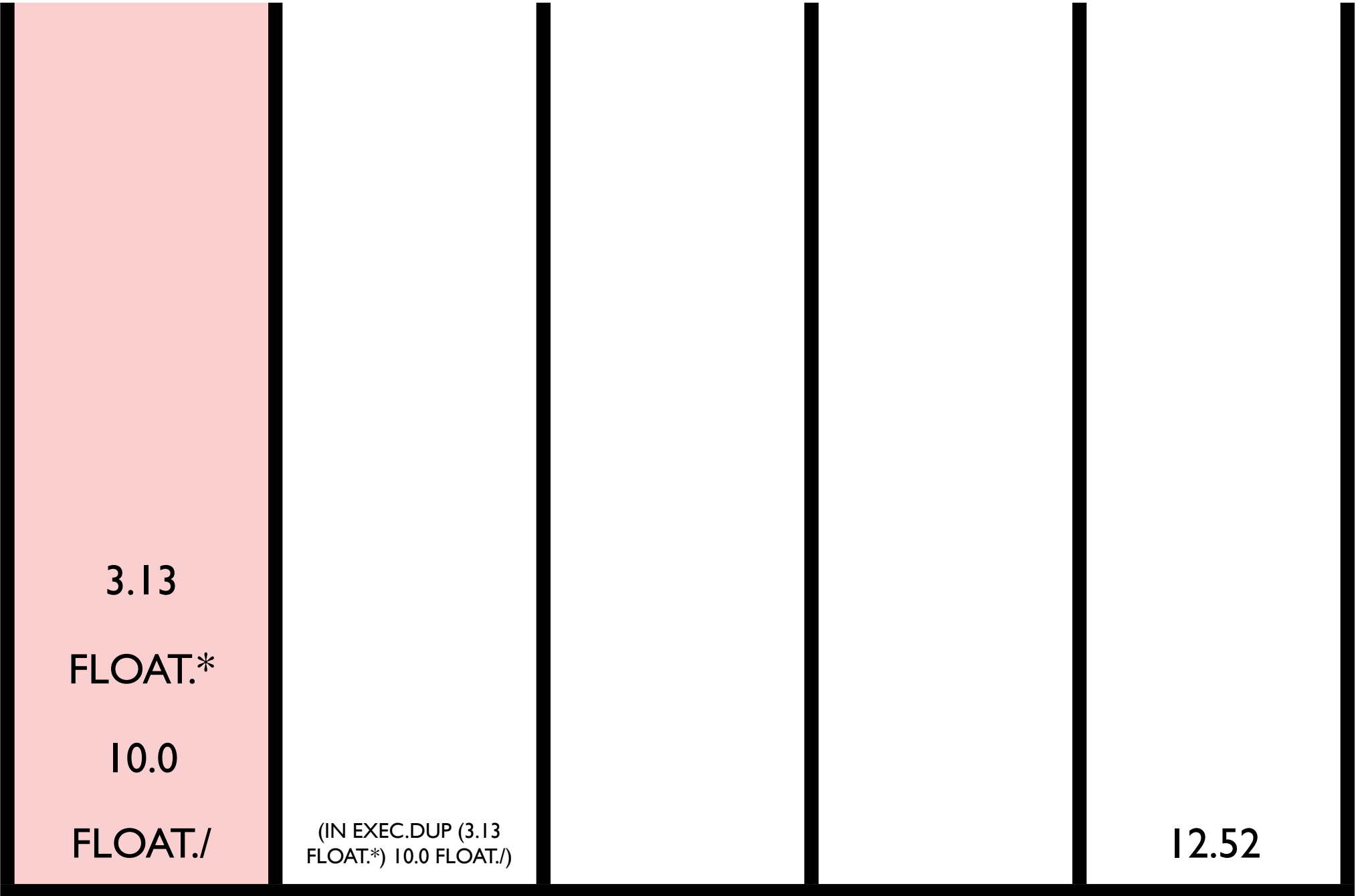
exec

code

bool

int

float



3.13

FLOAT.*

10.0

FLOAT./

(IN EXEC.DUP (3.13
FLOAT.*) 10.0 FLOAT./)

12.52

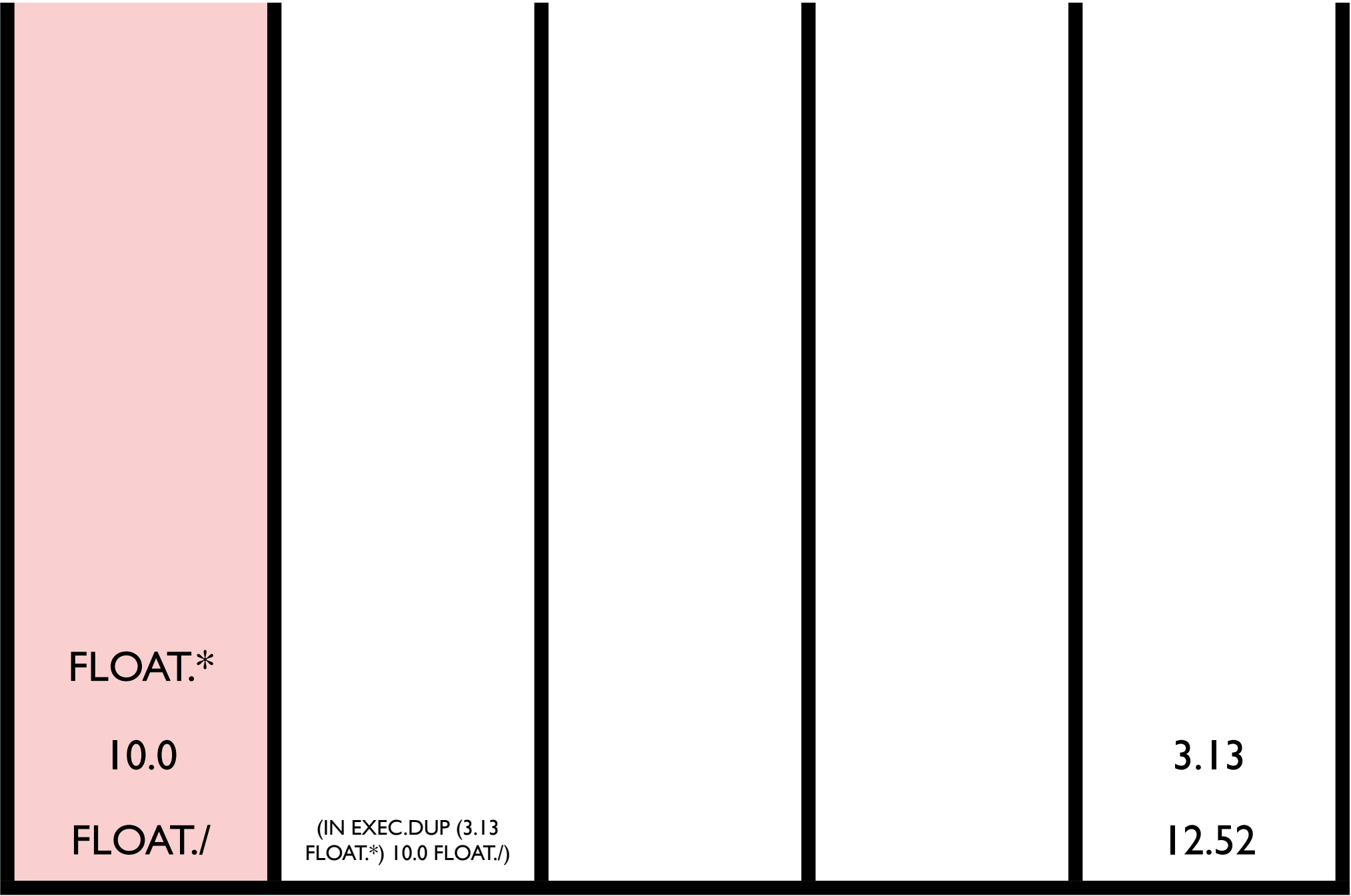
exec

code

bool

int

float



FLOAT.*

10.0

FLOAT./

(IN EXEC.DUP (3.13
FLOAT.*) 10.0 FLOAT./)

3.13

12.52

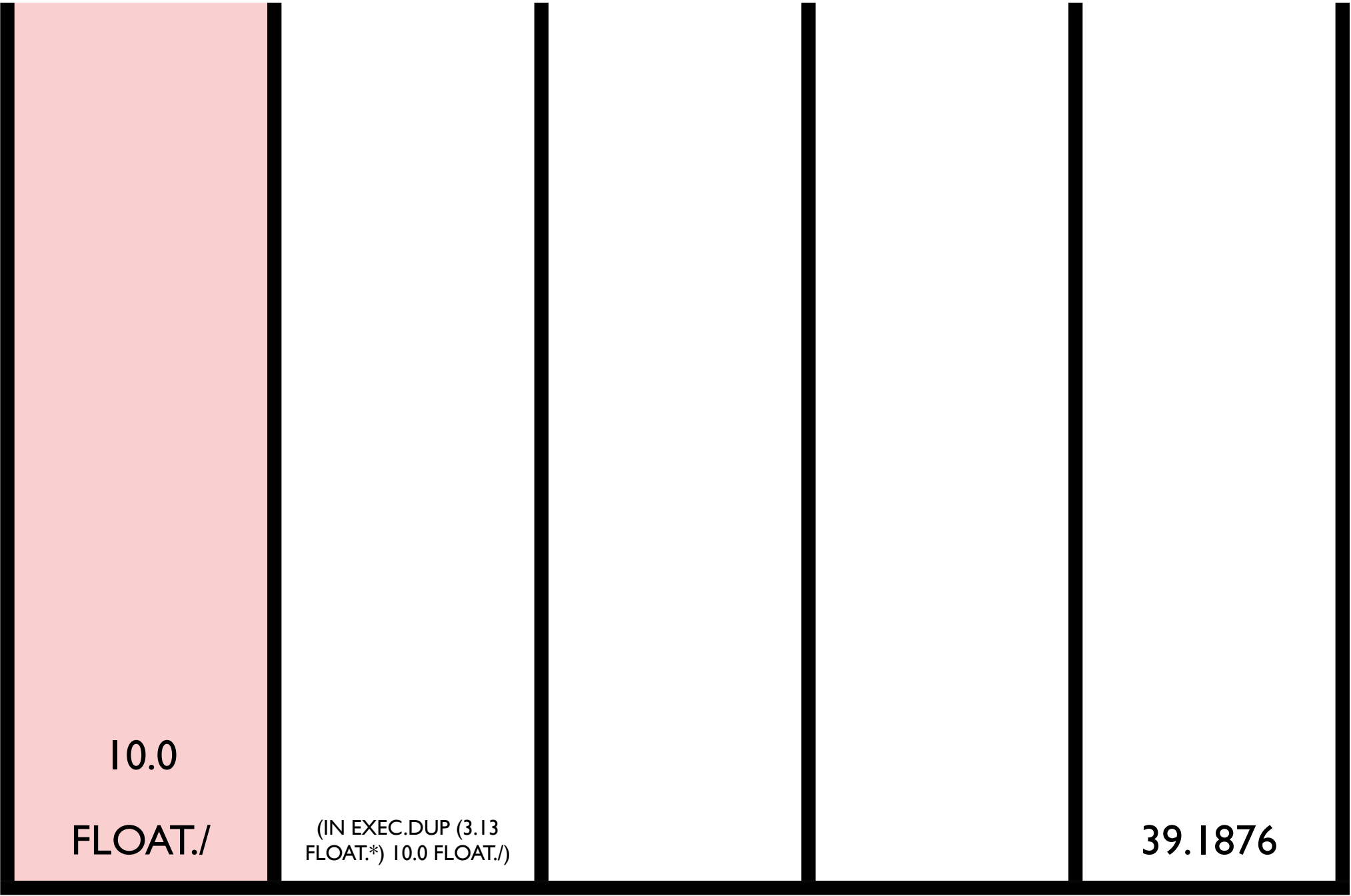
exec

code

bool

int

float



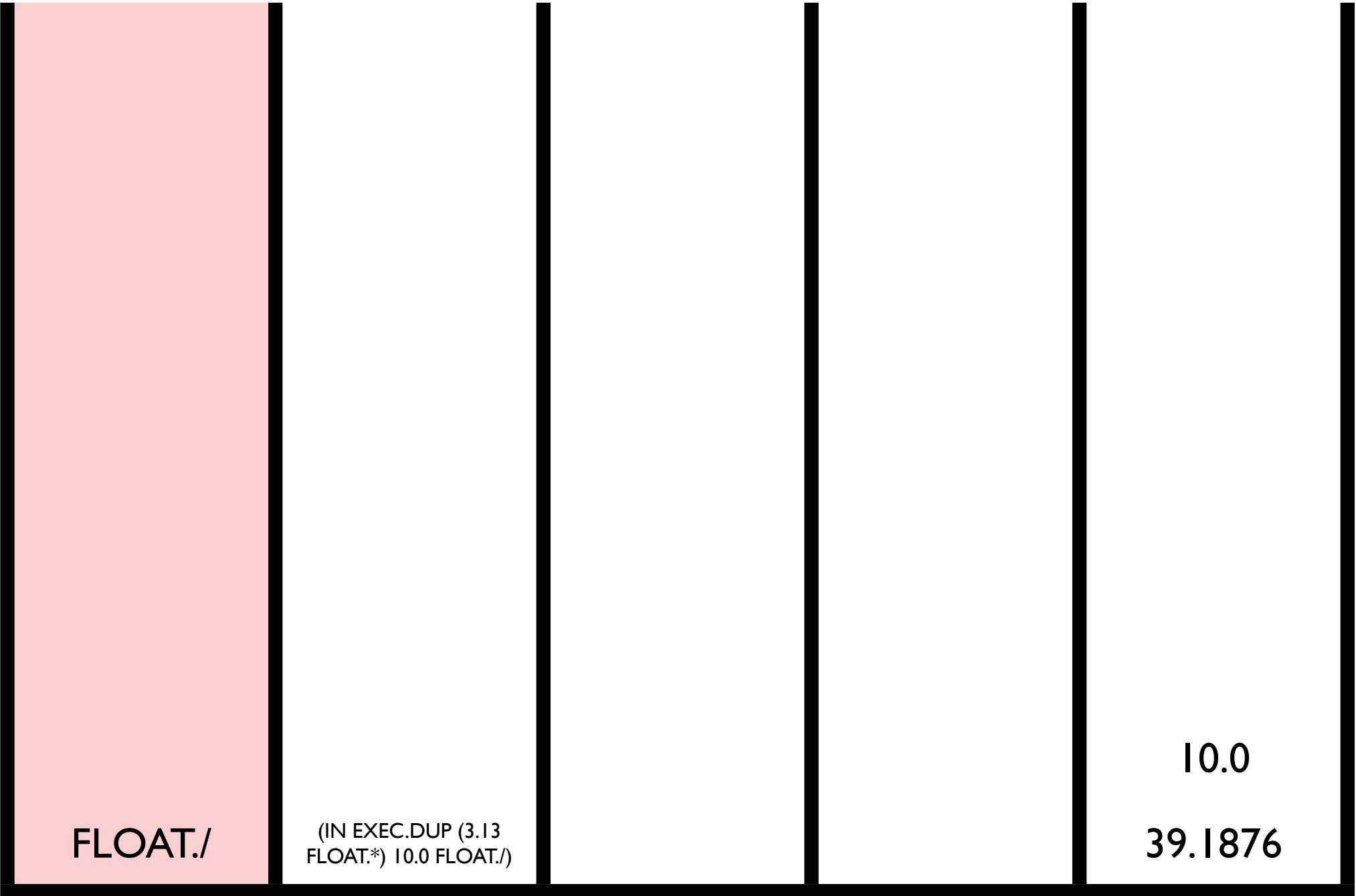
exec

code

bool

int

float



FLOAT./

(IN EXEC.DUP (3.13
FLOAT.*) 10.0 FLOAT./)

10.0
39.1876

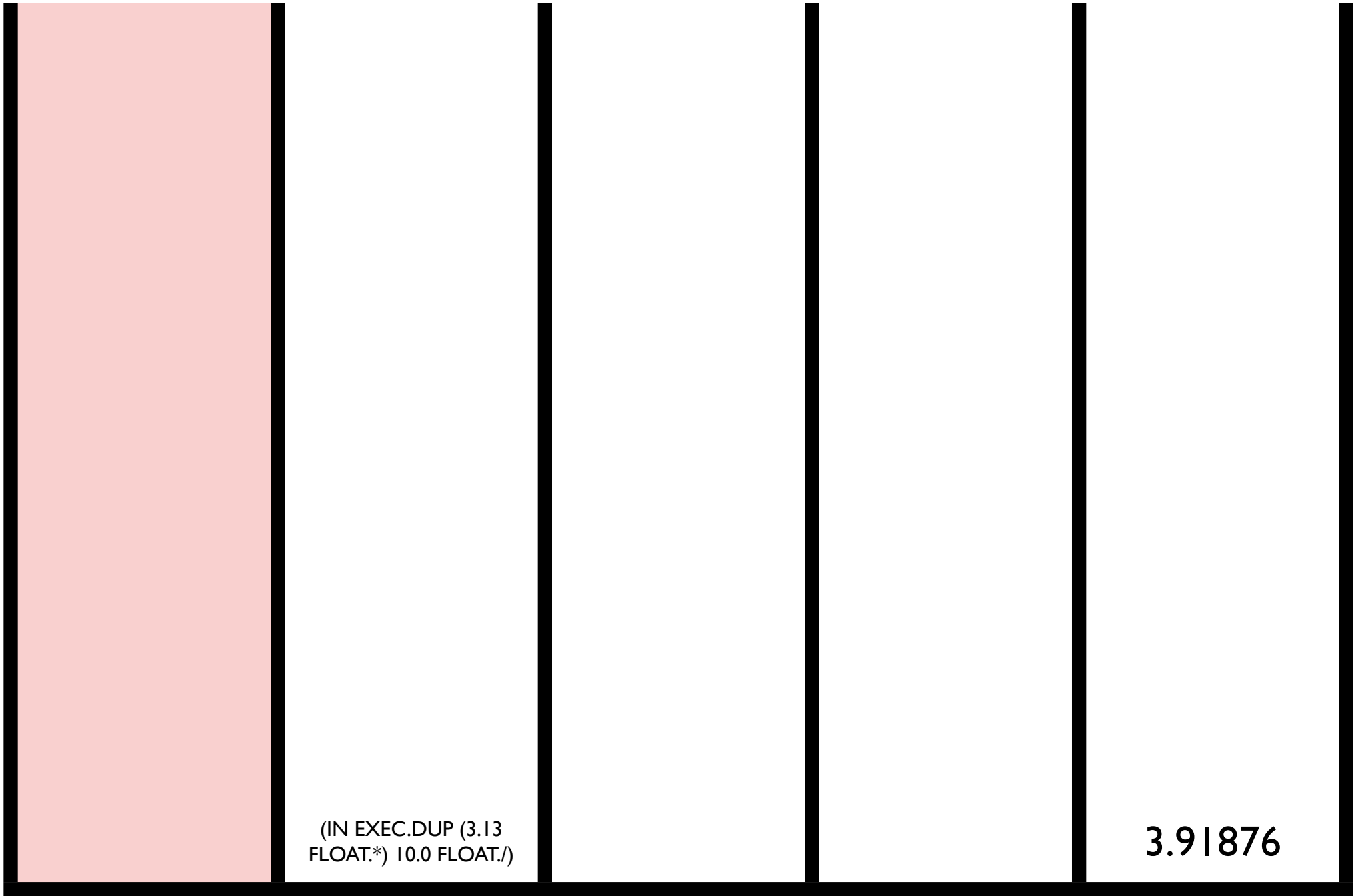
exec

code

bool

int

float



exec

code

bool

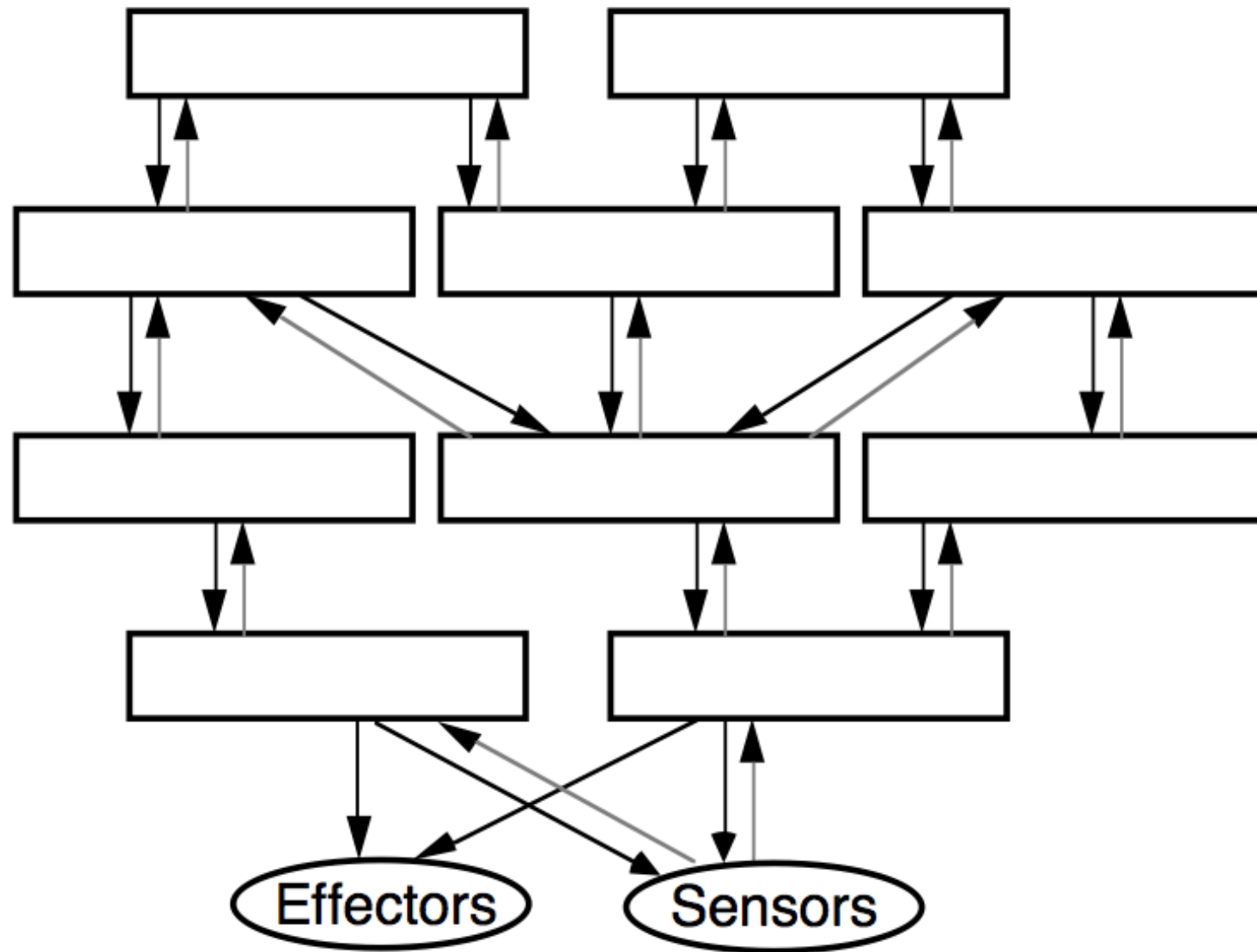
int

float

(IN EXEC.DUP (3.13
FLOAT.*) 10.0 FLOAT./)

3.91876

Modularity is Everywhere



Modules in GP

- Automatically-defined functions (Koza), macros (Spector)
- Architecture-altering operations (Koza)
- Module acquisition/encapsulation systems (Kinnear, Roberts, many others)
- Modules in GE (Swafford et al., others)
- In Push: code-manipulation instructions that build/execute modules as programs run

We will return to this later!

ADFs

- All programs in the population have the same, pre-specified architecture
- Genetic operators respect that architecture
- ```
(progn (defn adf0 (arg0 arg1) ...)
 (defn adf1 (arg0 arg1 arg2) ...)
 (... (adf1 ...) (adf0 ...) ...))
```
- Complicated, brittle, limited...
- Architecture-altering operations: more so

# Modules in Push

- Transform/execute code as data: Works, emerges, but stack-based module reference won't scale well
- Execution stack manipulation:  
`(3 exec.dup (1 integer.+))`  
More parsimonious, but same scaling issue
- Named modules:  
`(plus1 exec.define (1 integer.+)) ... plus1`  
Coordinating definitions/references is tricky ***and this never arises in evolution!***

# Modularity

## Ackley and Van Belle

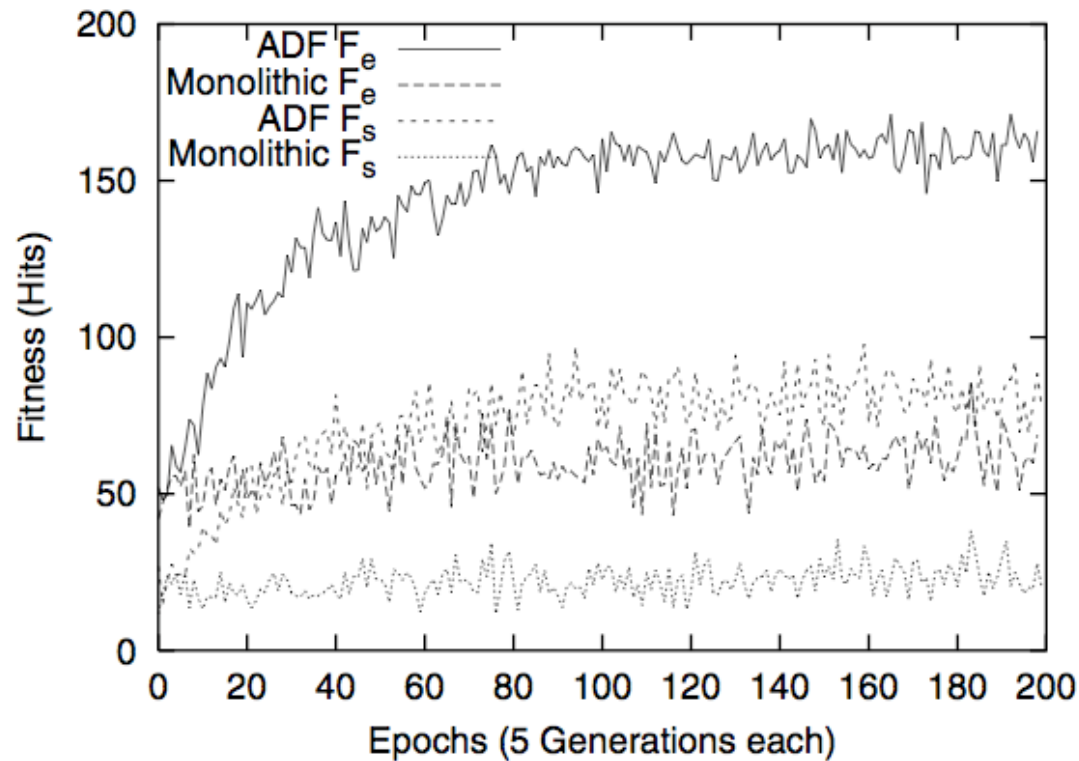
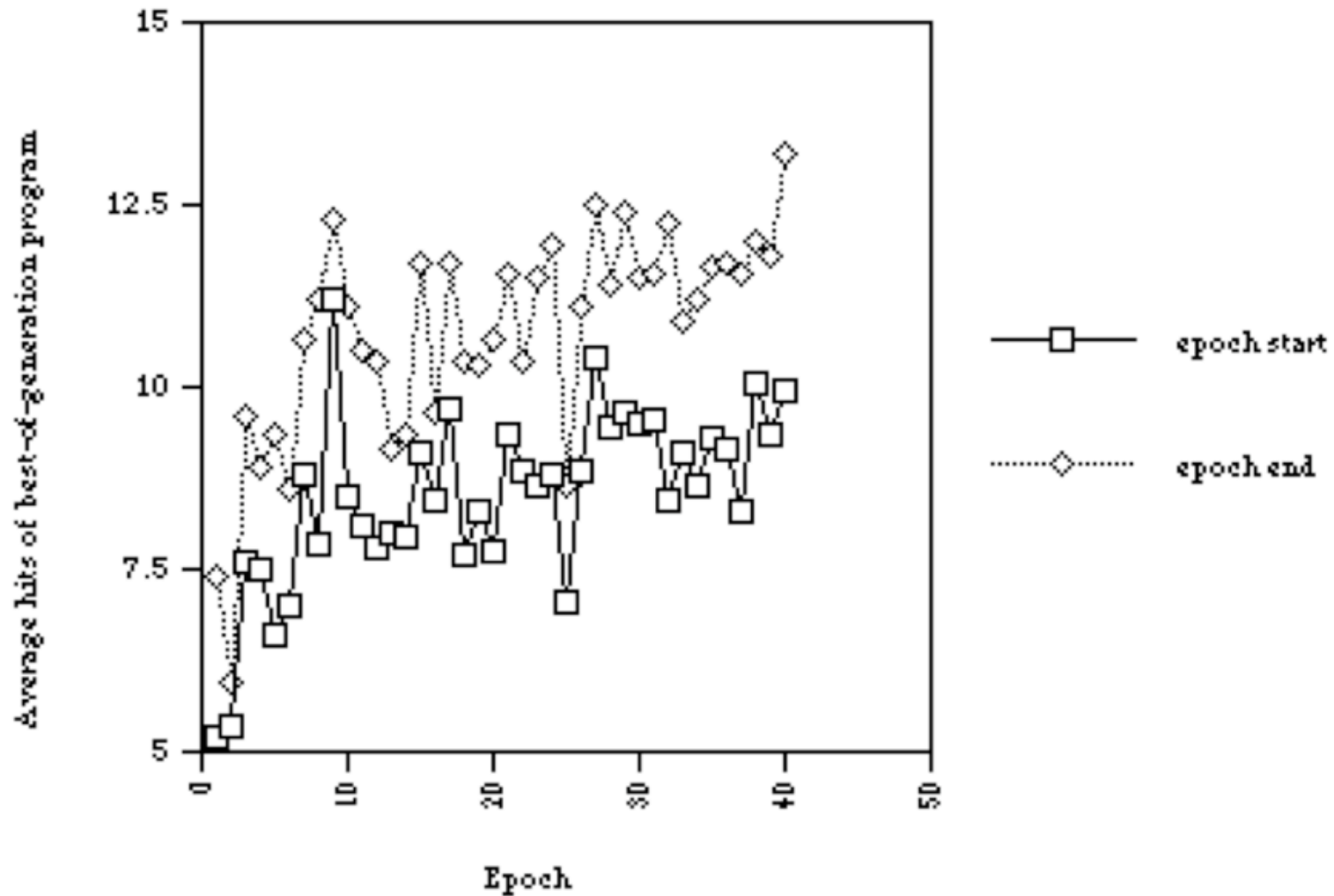


Figure 2: Average fitness values at the start ( $F_s$ ) and end ( $F_e$ ) of each epoch when regressing to  $y = A \sin(Ax)$ .  $A$  is selected at the start of each epoch uniformly from the range  $[0, 6)$ .

# Code-as-data

## Modularity in Push



# Tags

- Roots in John Holland's work on principles of complex adaptive systems
- Applied in models of the evolution of altruism, with agents having tags and tag-difference thresholds for donation
- A tag is *an initially meaningless identifier that can come to have meaning through the matches in which it participates*
- Matches may be inexact



# Tag-based Modules in GP

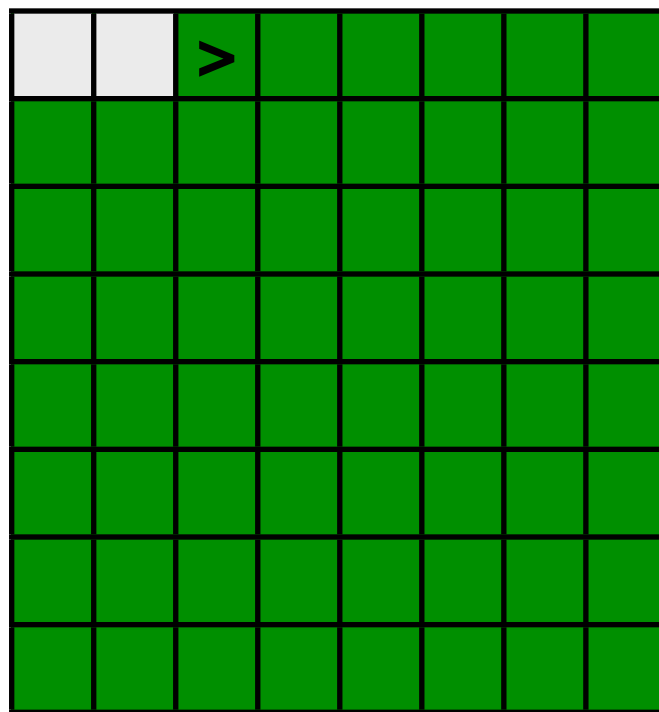
- Add mechanisms for tagging code
- Add mechanisms for retrieving/branching to code with closest matching tag
- As long as any code has been tagged, all branches go somewhere
- Number of tagged modules can grow incrementally over evolutionary time

# Tags in Push

- Tags are integers embedded in instruction names
- Instructions like tag.exec.123 tag values
- Instructions like tagged.456 recall values by *closest matching tag*
- If a single value has been tagged then all tag references will recall (and execute) values
- The number of tagged values can grow incrementally over evolutionary time

# Lawnmower Problem

- Used by Koza to demonstrate utility of ADFs for scaling GP up to larger problems

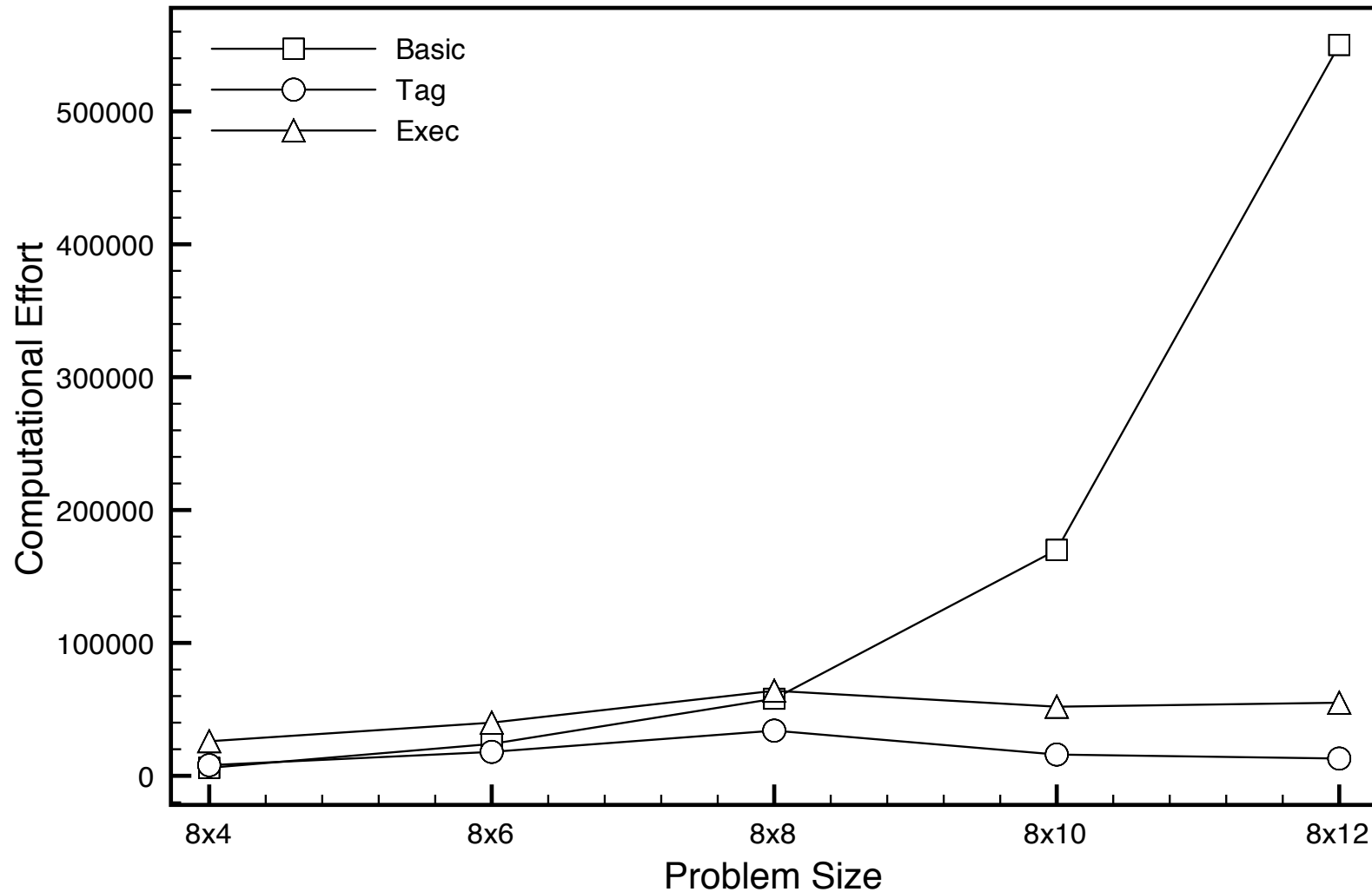


# Lawnmower Instructions

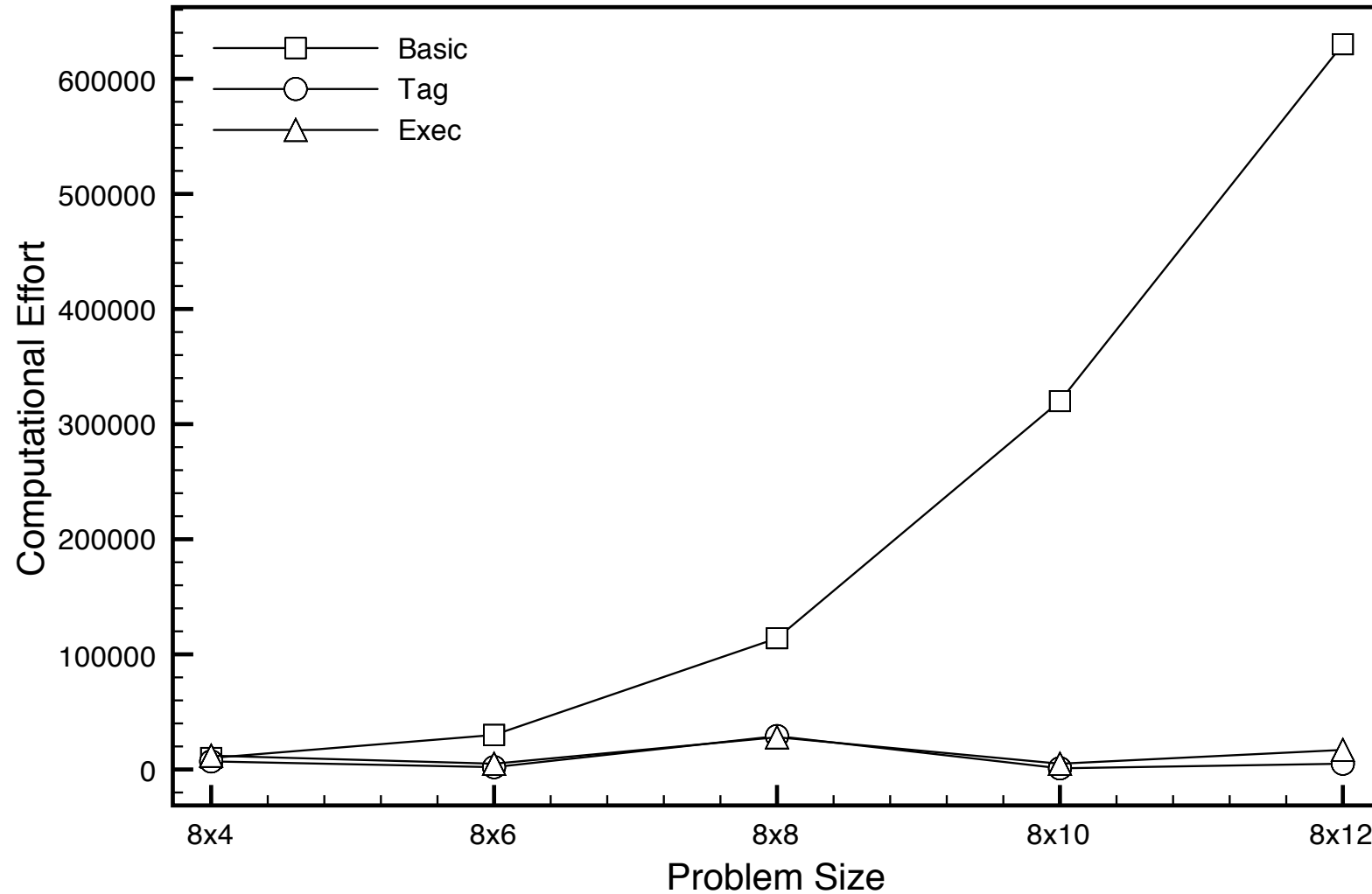
| Condition | Instructions                                                                                                     |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Basic     | left, mow, v8a, frog, $\mathcal{R}_{v8}$                                                                         |
| Tag       | left, mow, v8a, frog, $\mathcal{R}_{v8}$ ,<br>tag.exec.[1000], tagged.[1000]                                     |
| Exec      | left, mow, v8a, frog, $\mathcal{R}_{v8}$ ,<br>exec.dup, exec.pop, exec.rot,<br>exec.swap, exec.k, exec.s, exec.y |

# Lawnmower Effort\*

\* with frog=noop bug



# Lawnmower Effort



# Lawnmower Effort

|           | problem size |       |        |        |        |
|-----------|--------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
|           | 8x4          | 8x6   | 8x8    | 8x10   | 8x12   |
| instr set |              |       |        |        |        |
| basic     | 10000        | 30000 | 114000 | 320000 | 630000 |
| tag       | 7000         | 2000  | 29000  | <1000  | 5000   |
| exec      | 12000        | 5000  | 28000  | 5000   | 17000  |



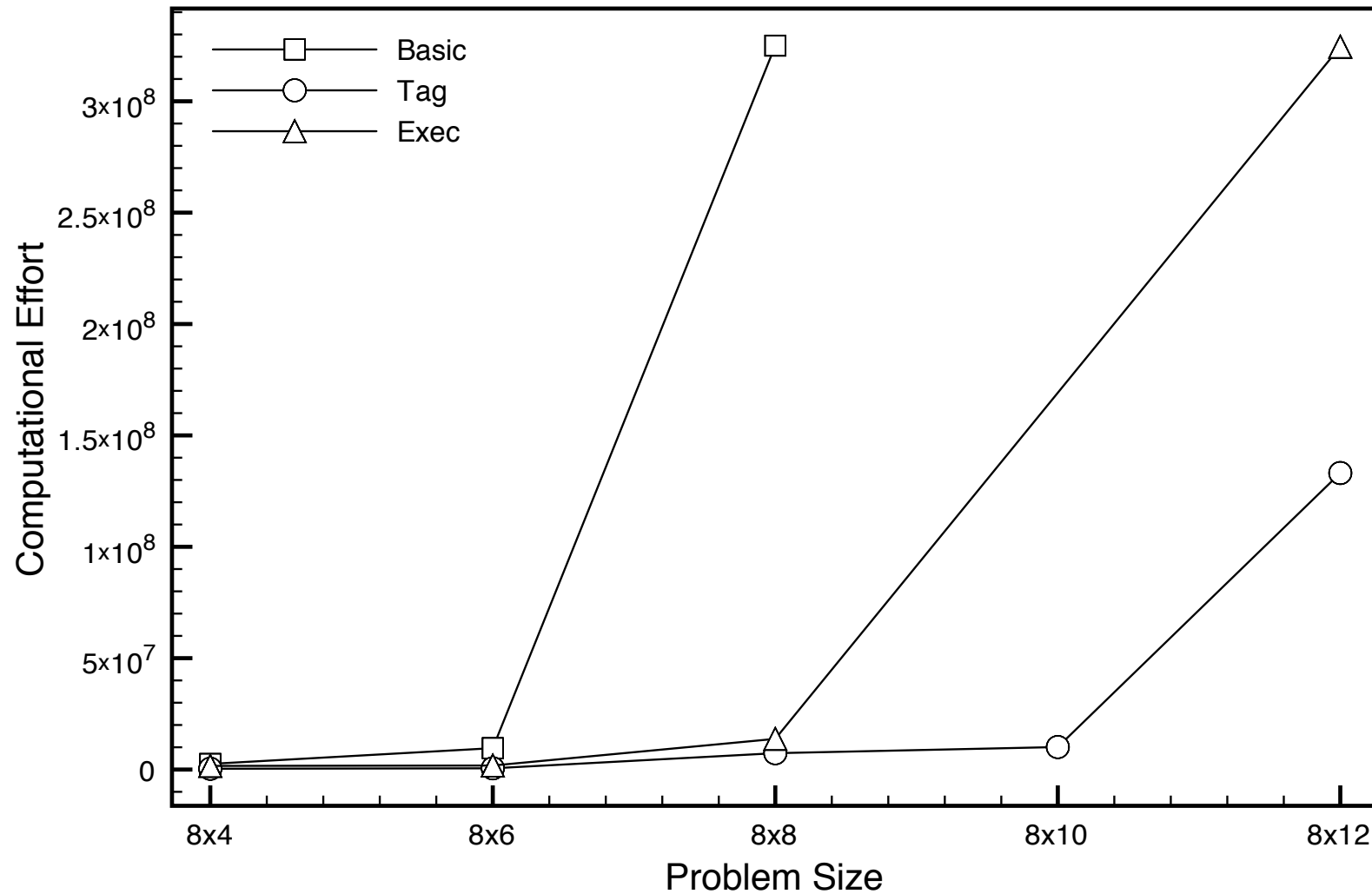


# DSOAR Instructions

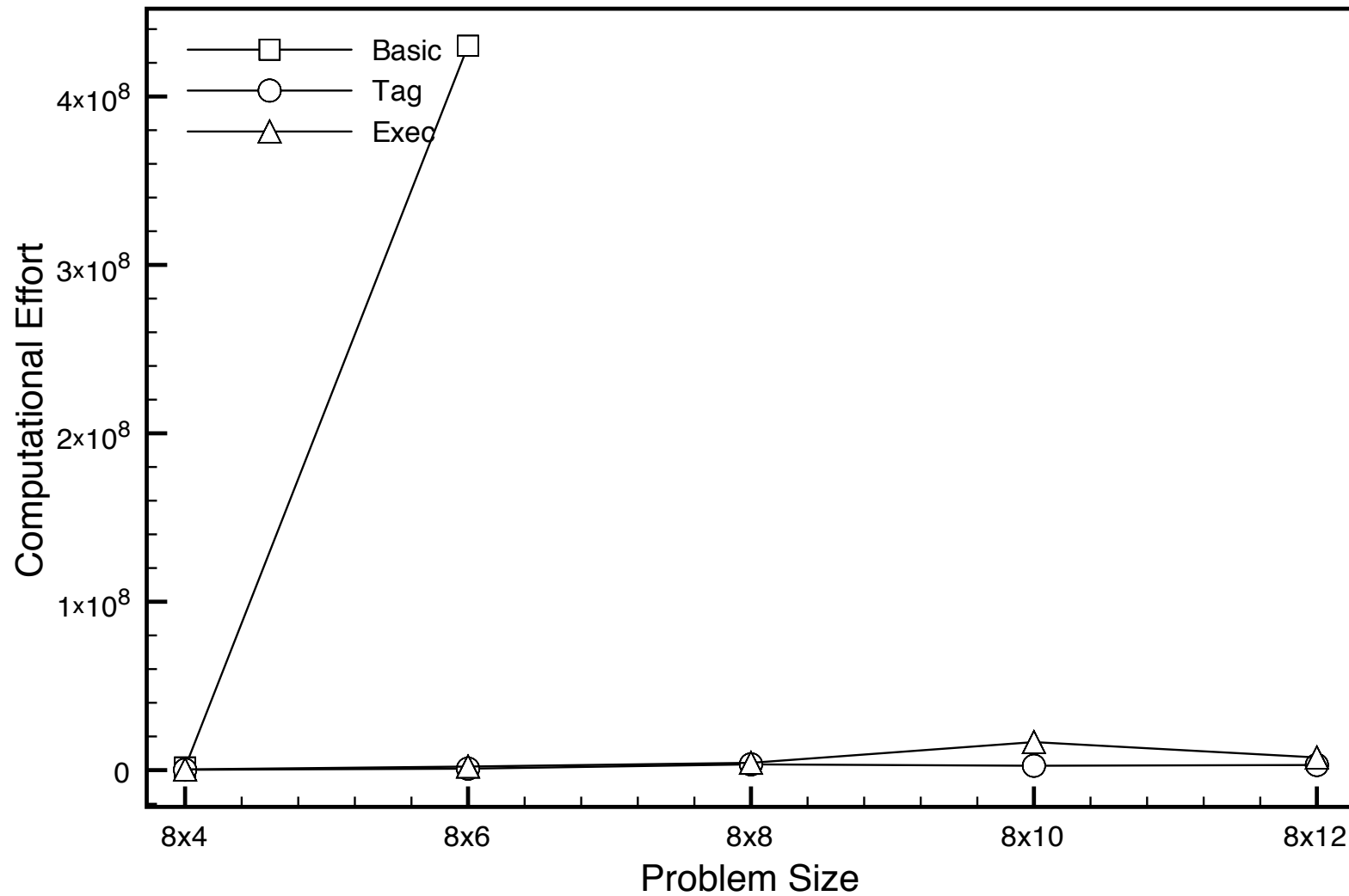
| Condition | Instructions                                                                                                                            |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Basic     | if-dirty, if-obstacle, left, mop, v8a, frog, $\mathcal{R}_{v8}$                                                                         |
| Tag       | if-dirty, if-obstacle, left, mop, v8a, frog, $\mathcal{R}_{v8}$ ,<br>tag.exec.[1000], tagged.[1000]                                     |
| Exec      | if-dirty, if-obstacle, left, mop, v8a, frog, $\mathcal{R}_{v8}$ ,<br>exec.dup, exec.pop, exec.rot,<br>exec.swap, exec.k, exec.s, exec.y |

# DSOAR Effort\*

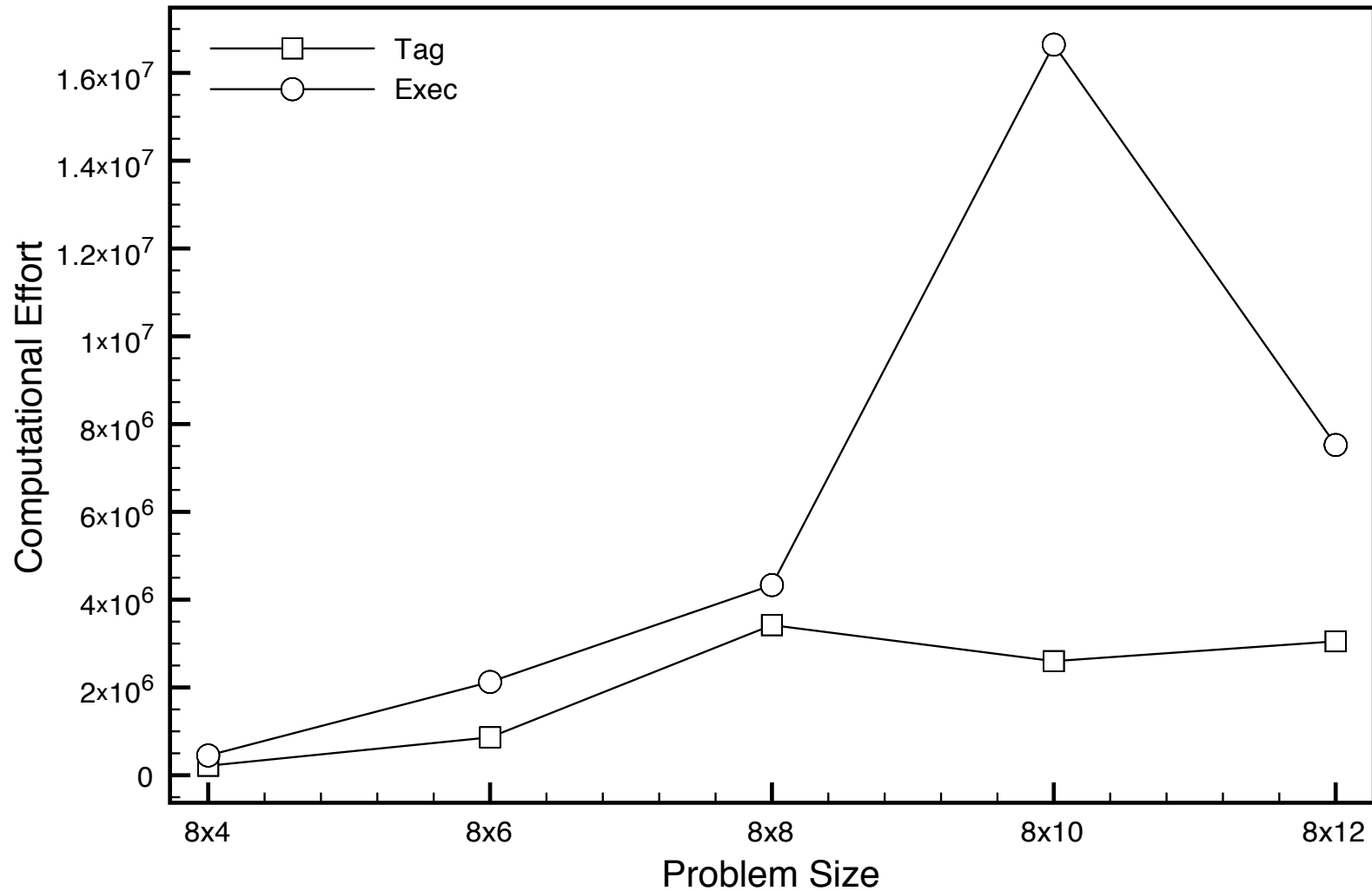
\* with frog=noop bug



# DSOAR Effort



# DSOAR Effort



# DSOAR Effort

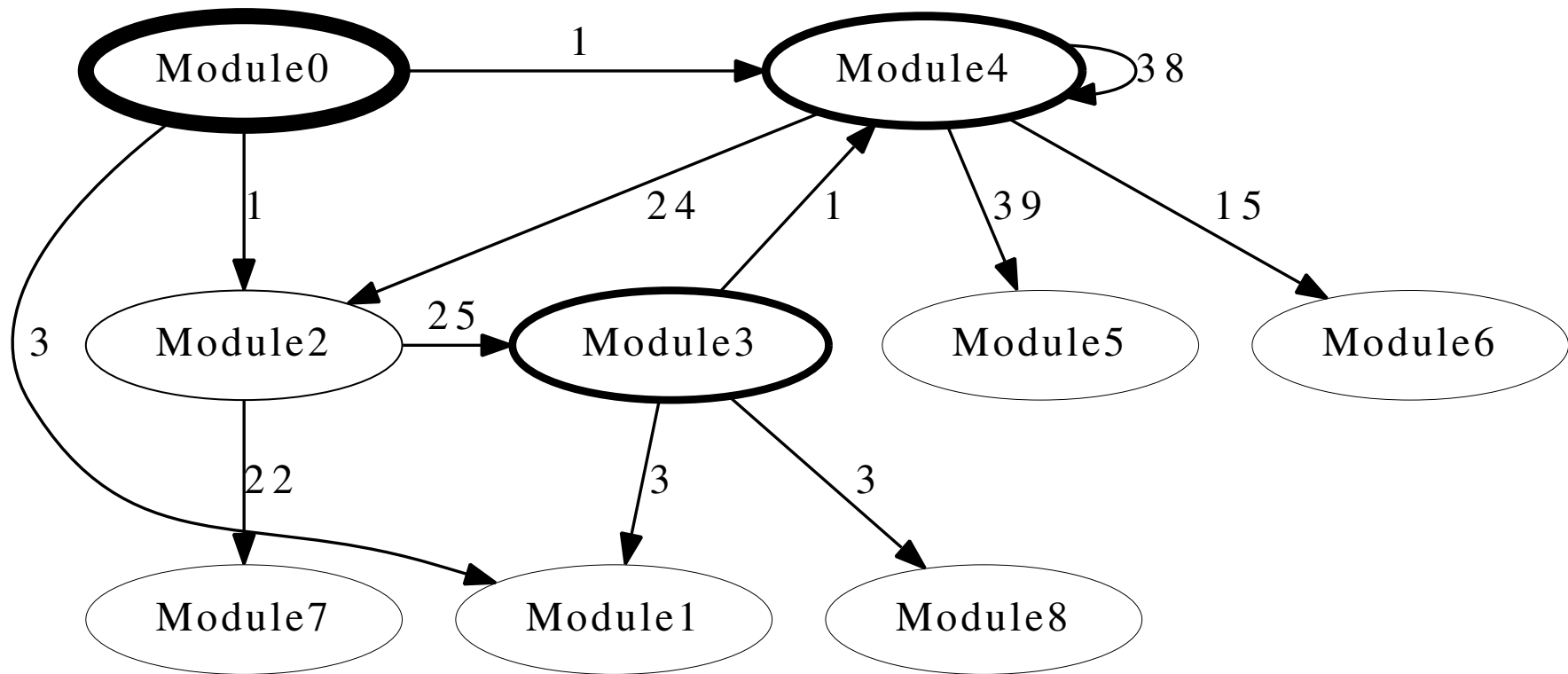
|           | problem size |           |         |          |         |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|---------|----------|---------|
|           | 8x4          | 8x6       | 8x8     | 8x10     | 8x12    |
| instr set |              |           |         |          |         |
| basic     | 1584000      | 430083000 | inf     | inf      | inf     |
| tag       | 216000       | 864000    | 3420000 | 2599000  | 3051000 |
| exec      | 450000       | 2125000   | 4332000 | 16644000 | 7524000 |

**More data, source code,  
etc, at:**

<http://hampshire.edu/Inspector/tags-gecco-2011>

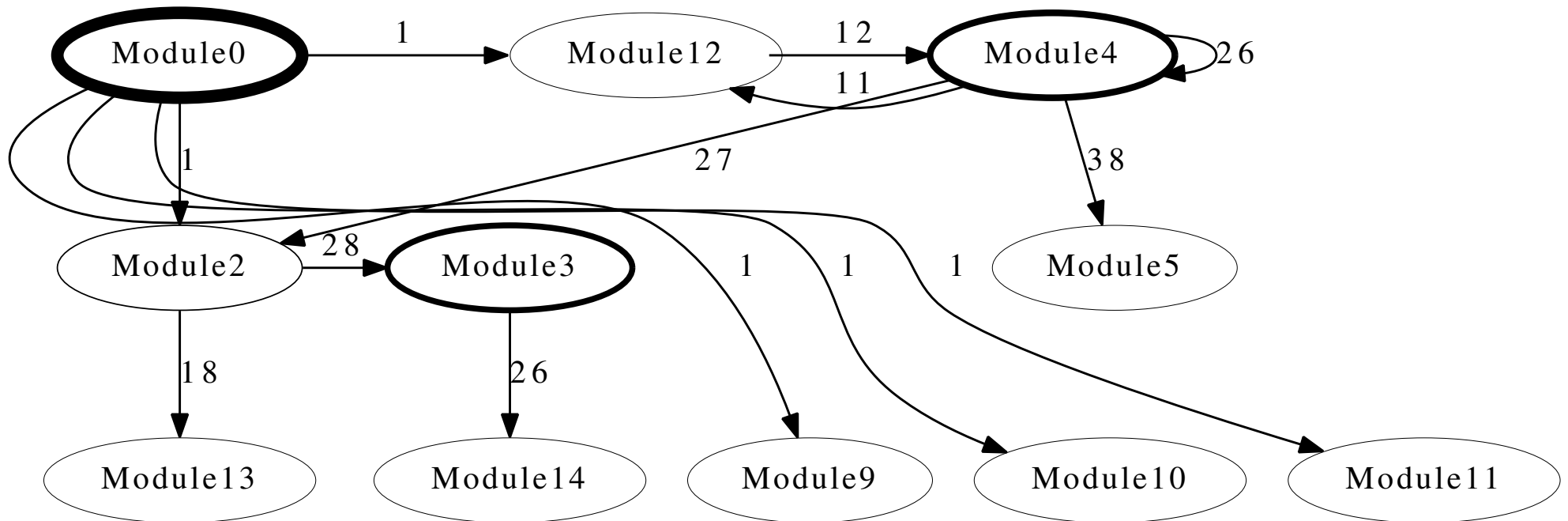
# Evolved DSOAR

## Architecture (in one environment)



# Evolved DSOAR

## Architecture (in another environment)





# Tags in S-Expressions

- A simple form:  
(progn (tag-123 (+ a b)) tagged-034)
- Must do something about endless recursion
- Must do something about return values
- Must do something fancy to support modules with arguments, particularly arguments of multiple types.

# Future Work

- Tags in s-expression-based GP
- Tag usage over evolutionary time
- No-pop tagging in PushGP
- Tags in autoconstructive evolution
- Applications, application, applications

# Conclusions

- Execution stack manipulation supports the evolution of modular programs in many situations
- Tag-based modules are more effective in complex, non-uniform problem environments
- Tag-based modules may help to evolve complex software and solutions to unsolved problems in the future