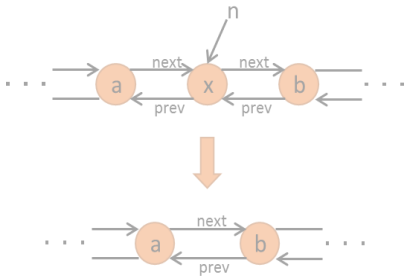
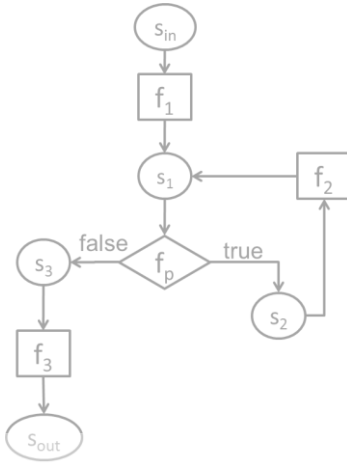


$$\exists c \forall in \ Q(c, in)$$

```

/* Average of x and y without using x+y (avoid overflow)*/
int avg(int x, int y){
    int t = expr({x/2, y/2, x%2, y%2, 2 }, {PLUS, DIV});
    assert t == (x+y)/2;
    return t;
}

```

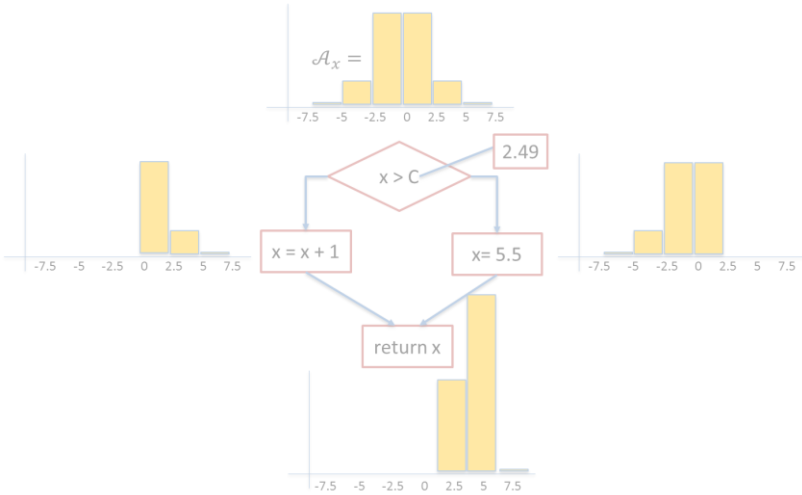
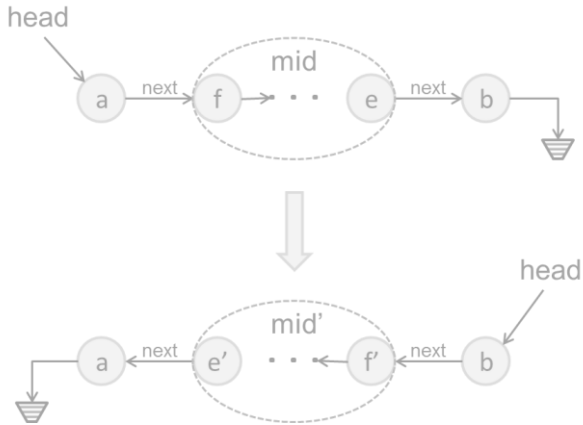


```

{
    s = n.succ;
    p = n.pred;
    p.succ = s;
    s.pred = p;
}

```

Program Synthesis



$$\varphi(p)$$

$$Sk[c](in)$$

Lecture 1

Course Overview and Introduction to Synthesis

Nadia Polikarpova

Instructor



Nadia Polikarpova

- Assistant Professor since 2017
- Before that: postdoc at MIT with Armando Solar-Lezama
- Before that: PhD at ETH Zurich
- Research areas: program synthesis and program verification
- she / her

Logistics

Lecture

- When: Tue/Thu 3:30-4:50
- Where: Zoom, then CSE 4140

Office Hours

- When: after class (4:50-5:30)
- Where: same as lecture

Course Website

- <https://github.com/nadia-polikarpova/cse291-program-synthesis>
- Discussions: on Slack

Goals and activities

1. Understand what
program synthesis can
do and how

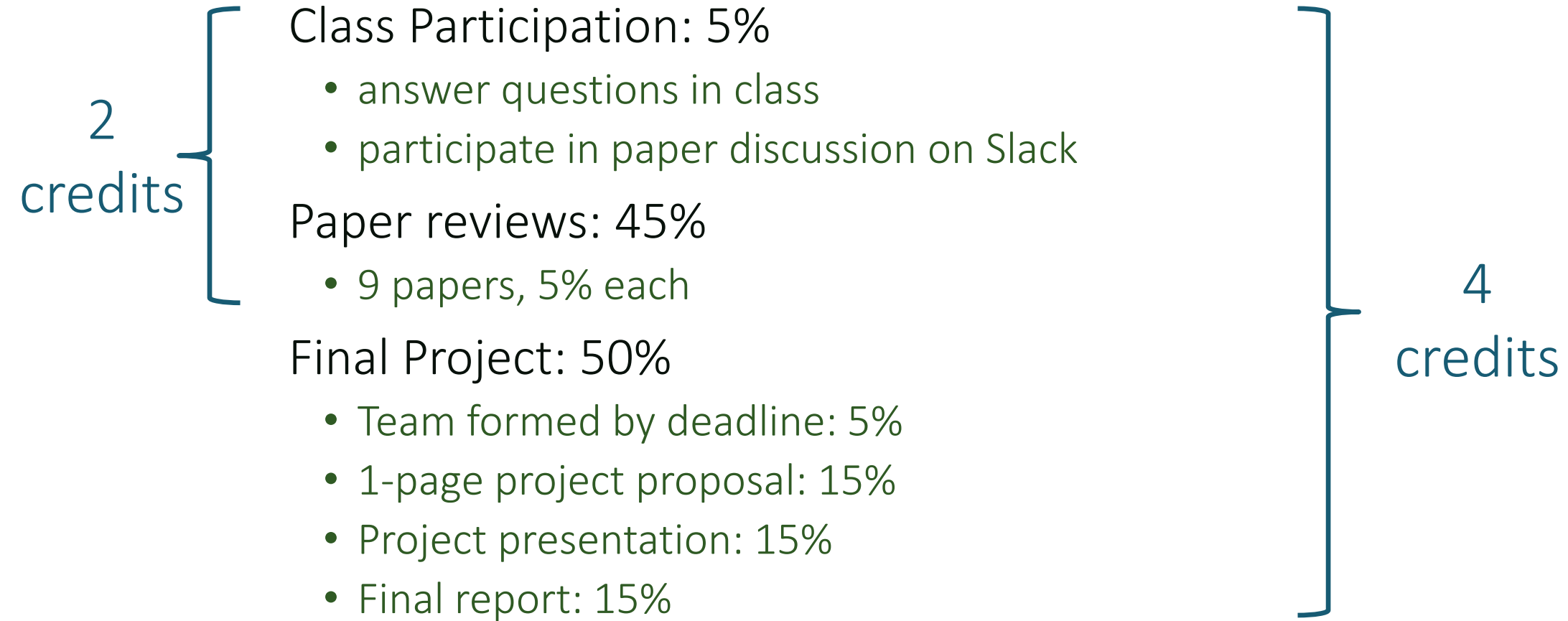
2. Use existing synthesis
tools

3. Contribute to
synthesis techniques
and tools towards a
publication in an
academic conference

lectures
read and discuss research papers

project

Evaluation



Papers reviews

Due on Wed of weeks 2-10, by the end of the day

- First review due next week

Posted on the Reading List at least a week before due date

Reviews submitted via a Google Form: see wiki

- Link posted on Reading List

Review content: see wiki

Discussion:

- before due date: discuss on Slack
- after due date: discuss in class

Project

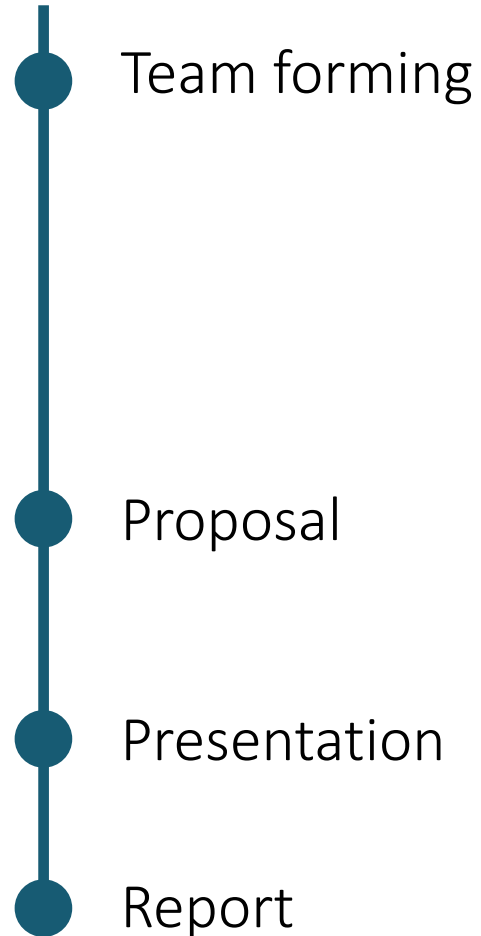
Kinds of projects:

- re-implement a technique from a paper
- apply existing synthesis framework to a new domain
- extend/improve existing synthesis algorithm or tool
- develop a new synthesis algorithm or tool
- ...

Judged in terms of

- quality of execution
- originality
- scope

Project



Teams of 2/3

Pick a project:

- List of suggested projects on the wiki (but feel free to propose your own)
- Talk to me!

One page: explain what you plan to do and give some evidence that you've started to work on it

During the exam week

- ~10 min per project

3-8 pages, structured like a research paper

And now the good stuff

The goal: automate programming



What is program synthesis?



The FORTRAN Automatic Coding System

J. W. BACKUS†, R. J. BEEBER†, S. BEST‡, R. GOLDBERG†, L. M. HAIBT†,
H. L. HERRICK†, R. A. NELSON†, D. SAYRE†, P. B. SHERIDAN†,
H. STERN†, I. ZILLER†, R. A. HUGHES§, AND R. NUTT||

INTRODUCTION

THE FORTRAN project was begun in the summer of 1954. Its purpose was to reduce by a large factor the task of preparing scientific problems for IBM's next large computer, the 704. If it were possible for the 704 to code problems for itself and produce as

system is now complete. It has two components: the FORTRAN language, in which programs are written, and the translator or executive routine for the 704 which effects the translation of FORTRAN language programs into 704 programs. Descriptions of the FORTRAN language and the translator form the principal


```

append:
    push ebp
    mov ebp, esp
    push eax
    push ebx
    push len
    call malloc
    mov ebx, [ebp + 12]
    mov [eax + info], ebx
    mov dword [eax + next], 0
    mov ebx, [ebp + 8]
    cmp dword [ebx], 0
    je null_pointer
    mov ebx, [ebx]

next_element:
    cmp dword [ebx + next], 0
    je found_last
    mov ebx, [ebx + next]
    jmp next_element

found_last:
    push eax
    push addMes
    call puts
    add esp, 4
    pop eax
    mov [ebx + next], eax

go_out:
    pop ebx
    pop eax
    mov esp, ebp
    pop ebp
    ret 8

null_pointer:
    push eax
    push nullMes
    call puts
    add esp, 4
    pop eax
    mov [ebx], eax
    jmp go_out

```

Assembly

```

void insert(node *xs, int x) {
    node *new;
    node *temp;
    node *prev;

    new = (node *)malloc(sizeof(node));
    if(new == NULL) {
        printf("Insufficient memory.");
        return;
    }
    new->val = x;
    new->next = NULL;
    if (xs == NULL) {
        xs = new;
    } else if(x < xs->val) {
        new->next = xs;
        xs = new;
    } else {
        prev = xs;
        temp = xs->next;
        while(temp != NULL && x > temp->val) {
            prev = temp;
            temp = temp->next;
        }
        if(temp == NULL) {
            prev->next = new;
        } else {
            new->next = temp;
            prev->next = new;
        }
    }
}

```

C

```

insert x xs =
  match xs with
  Nil → Cons x Nil
  Cons h t →
    if x ≤ h
    then Cons x xs
    else Cons h (insert x t)

```

Haskell

“Any sufficiently advanced compiler is indistinguishable from a synthesizer”

?

modern program
synthesis



Modern program synthesis: FlashFill

[Gulwani 2011]

The collage features several overlapping elements:

- CNNMoney TECH**: A blue header with the CNNMoney logo and the word "TECH".
- lifehacker**: A green and white header with the word "lifehacker" and a small "AUST" button.
- TECHWORLD**: A black header with the word "TECHWORLD" in blue and white.
- WIRED**: A black header with the word "WIRED" in white, followed by navigation links: "SUBSCRIBE >>", "SECTIONS >>", "BLOGS >>", "REVIEWS >>", and "VIDEO >>". A "Sign In | RSS" link is also present.
- Excel 2013's coolest new feature that should have been available years ago**: A blue headline on a white background.
- Excel**: A section header for an article about the Flash Fill feature.
- Excel is now a lot easier for people who aren't spreadsheet- and chart-making pros. The application's new Flash Fill feature recognizes patterns, and will offer auto-complete options for your data. For example, if you have a column of first names and a column of last names, and want to create a new**: A paragraph of text from the article.
- THE TIMES OF INDIA Tech**: A black header with the text "THE TIMES OF INDIA" and "Tech".
- Home City India World Business Tech Sports Entertainment Life & Style**: A red navigation bar with various category links.
- PCWorld**: A red header with the word "PCWorld" and navigation links: "News", "Reviews", and "How-To".
- TRENDING: Phones | Tablets | Laptops | Windows**: A red navigation bar with trending topics.
- engadget**: A blue and white header with the word "engadget" and a "COMPUTEX 2012" tag.
- ZDNet**: A blue header with the "ZDNet" logo and a "White Paper" link.
- The Seattle Times Winner of a 2012 Pulitzer Prize**: A snippet of a news article.
- Excel Spreadsheet**: A screenshot of an Excel spreadsheet showing a table with names in column A and their last names in column B. The table data is as follows:

	A	B
1	Malcolm Turnbull	Malcolm
2	Bernie Ripoll	Bernie
3	Steven Cike	

FlashFill: a feature of Excel 2013

[Gulwani 2011]

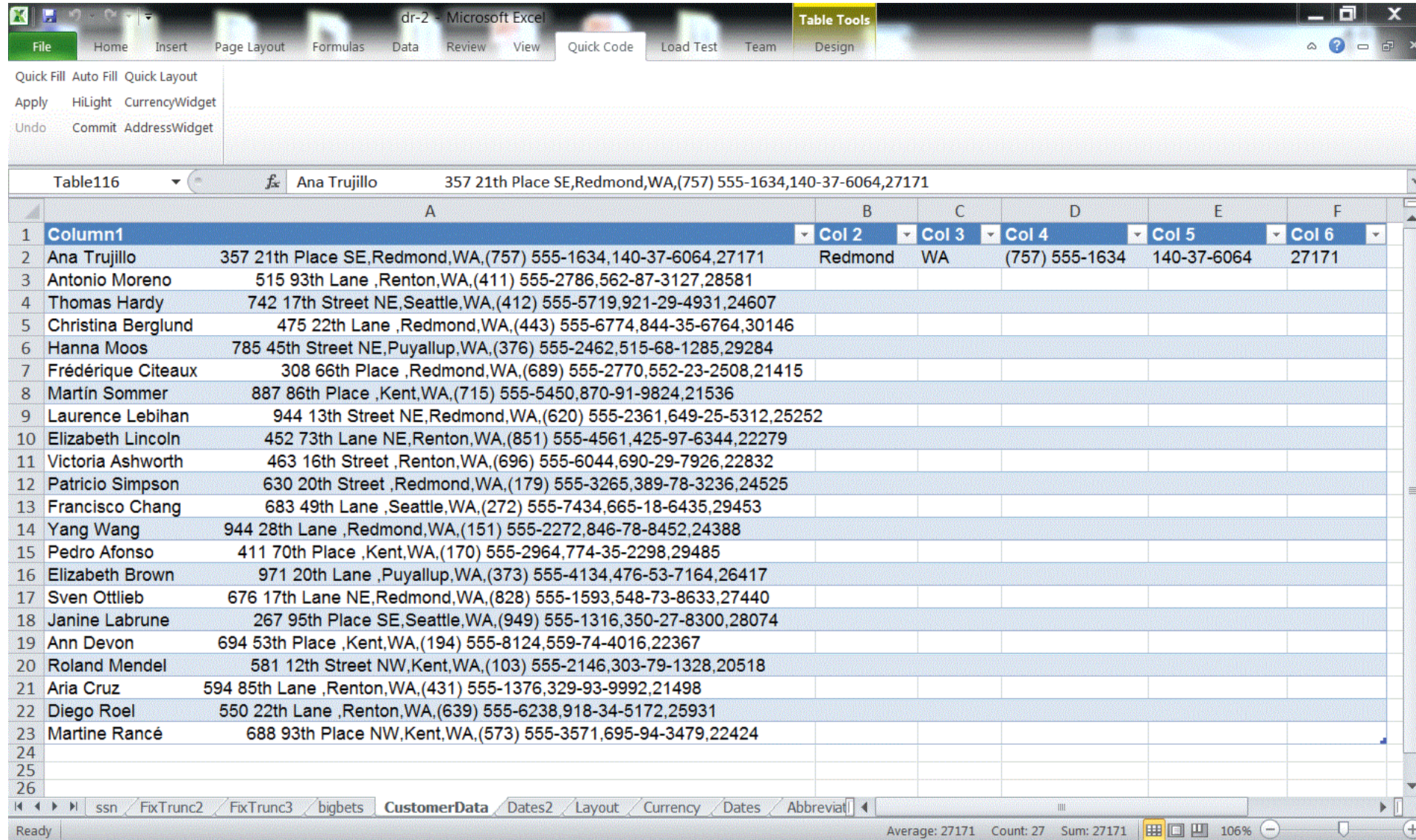


Table116					
Ana Trujillo 357 21th Place SE,Redmond,WA,(757) 555-1634,140-37-6064,27171					
Column1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6
Ana Trujillo	357 21th Place SE,Redmond,WA,(757) 555-1634,140-37-6064,27171	Redmond	WA	(757) 555-1634	140-37-6064 27171
Antonio Moreno	515 93th Lane ,Renton,WA,(411) 555-2786,562-87-3127,28581				
Thomas Hardy	742 17th Street NE,Seattle,WA,(412) 555-5719,921-29-4931,24607				
Christina Berglund	475 22th Lane ,Redmond,WA,(443) 555-6774,844-35-6764,30146				
Hanna Moos	785 45th Street NE,Puyallup,WA,(376) 555-2462,515-68-1285,29284				
Frédérique Citeaux	308 66th Place ,Redmond,WA,(689) 555-2770,552-23-2508,21415				
Martin Sommer	887 86th Place ,Kent,WA,(715) 555-5450,870-91-9824,21536				
Laurence Lebihan	944 13th Street NE,Redmond,WA,(620) 555-2361,649-25-5312,25252				
Elizabeth Lincoln	452 73th Lane NE,Renton,WA,(851) 555-4561,425-97-6344,22279				
Victoria Ashworth	463 16th Street ,Renton,WA,(696) 555-6044,690-29-7926,22832				
Patricio Simpson	630 20th Street ,Redmond,WA,(179) 555-3265,389-78-3236,24525				
Francisco Chang	683 49th Lane ,Seattle,WA,(272) 555-7434,665-18-6435,29453				
Yang Wang	944 28th Lane ,Redmond,WA,(151) 555-2272,846-78-8452,24388				
Pedro Afonso	411 70th Place ,Kent,WA,(170) 555-2964,774-35-2298,29485				
Elizabeth Brown	971 20th Lane ,Puyallup,WA,(373) 555-4134,476-53-7164,26417				
Sven Ottlieb	676 17th Lane NE,Redmond,WA,(828) 555-1593,548-73-8633,27440				
Janine Labrune	267 95th Place SE,Seattle,WA,(949) 555-1316,350-27-8300,28074				
Ann Devon	694 53th Place ,Kent,WA,(194) 555-8124,559-74-4016,22367				
Roland Mendel	581 12th Street NW,Kent,WA,(103) 555-2146,303-79-1328,20518				
Aria Cruz	594 85th Lane ,Renton,WA,(431) 555-1376,329-93-9992,21498				
Diego Roel	550 22th Lane ,Renton,WA,(639) 555-6238,918-34-5172,25931				
Martine Rancé	688 93th Place NW,Kent,WA,(573) 555-3571,695-94-3479,22424				

Ready | Average: 27171 Count: 27 Sum: 27171 106%

FlashFill: a feature of Excel 2013

dr-2 - Microsoft Excel

Table Tools

FileHomeInsertPage LayoutFormulasDataReviewViewQuick CodeLoad TestTeamDesign

Quick FillAuto FillQuick Layout

ApplyHiLightCurrencyWidget

UndoCommitAddressWidget

Table116

Ana Trujillo

357 21th Place SE,Redmond,WA,(757) 555-1634,140-37-6064,27171

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Column1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6
2	Ana Trujillo	357 21th Place SE,Redmond,WA,(757) 555-1634,140-37-6064,27171	Redmond	WA	(757) 555-1634	140-37-6064 27171
3	Antonio Moreno	515 93th Lane ,Renton,WA,(411) 555-2786,562-87-3127,28581	Renton	WA	(411) 555-2786	562-87-3127 28581
4	Thomas Hardy	742 17th Street NE,Seattle,WA,(412) 555-5719,921-29-4931,24607	Seattle	WA	(412) 555-5719	921-29-4931 24607
5	Christina Berglund	475 22th Lane ,Redmond,WA,(443) 555-6774,844-35-6764,30146	Redmond	WA	(443) 555-6774	844-35-6764 30146
6	Hanna Moos	785 45th Street NE,Puyallup,WA,(376) 555-2462,515-68-1285,29284	Puyallup	WA	(376) 555-2462	515-68-1285 29284
7	Frédérique Citeaux	308 66th Place ,Redmond,WA,(689) 555-2770,552-23-2508,21415	Redmond	WA	(689) 555-2770	552-23-2508 21415
8	Martin Sommer	887 86th Place ,Kent,WA,(715) 555-5450,870-91-9824,21536	Kent	WA	(715) 555-5450	870-91-9824 21536
9	Laurence Lebihan	944 13th Street NE,Redmond,WA,(620) 555-2361,649-25-5312,2525	Redmond	WA	(620) 555-2361	649-25-5312 2525
10	Elizabeth Lincoln	452 73th Lane NE,Renton,WA,(851) 555-4561,425-97-6344,22279	Renton	WA	(851) 555-4561	425-97-6344 22279
11	Victoria Ashworth	463 16th Street ,Renton,WA,(696) 555-6044,690-29-7926,22832	Renton	WA	(696) 555-6044	690-29-7926 22832
12	Patricio Simpson	630 20th Street ,Redmond,WA,(179) 555-3265,389-78-3236,24525	Redmond	WA	(179) 555-3265	389-78-3236 24525
13	Francisco Chang	683 49th Lane ,Seattle,WA,(272) 555-7434,665-18-6435,29453	Seattle	WA	(272) 555-7434	665-18-6435 29453
14	Yang Wang	944 28th Lane ,Redmond,WA,(151) 555-2272,846-78-8452,24388	Redmond	WA	(151) 555-2272	846-78-8452 24388
15	Pedro Afonso	411 70th Place ,Kent,WA,(170) 555-2964,774-35-2298,29485	Kent	WA	(170) 555-2964	774-35-2298 29485
16	Elizabeth Brown	971 20th Lane ,Puyallup,WA,(373) 555-4134,476-53-7164,26417	Puyallup	WA	(373) 555-4134	476-53-7164 26417
17	Sven Ottlieb	676 17th Lane NE,Redmond,WA,(828) 555-1593,548-73-8633,27440	Redmond	WA	(828) 555-1593	548-73-8633 27440
18	Janine Labrune	267 95th Place SE,Seattle,WA,(949) 555-1316,350-27-8300,28074	Seattle	WA	(949) 555-1316	350-27-8300 28074
19	Ann Devon	694 53th Place ,Kent,WA,(194) 555-8124,559-74-4016,22367	Kent	WA	(194) 555-8124	559-74-4016 22367
20	Roland Mendel	581 12th Street NW,Kent,WA,(103) 555-2146,303-79-1328,20518	Kent	WA	(103) 555-2146	303-79-1328 20518
21	Aria Cruz	594 85th Lane ,Renton,WA,(431) 555-1376,329-93-9992,21498	Renton	WA	(431) 555-1376	329-93-9992 21498
22	Diego Roel	550 22th Lane ,Renton,WA,(639) 555-6238,918-34-5172,25931	Renton	WA	(639) 555-6238	918-34-5172 25931
23	Martine Rancé	688 93th Place NW,Kent,WA,(573) 555-3571,695-94-3479,22424	Kent	WA	(573) 555-3571	695-94-3479 22424
24						
25						
26						

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Ready

Average: 27171Count: 132Sum: 27171106%

Modern program synthesis: Sketch

[Solar-Lezama 2013]

Problem: isolate the least significant zero bit in a word

- example: 0010 0101 → 0000 0010

Easy to implement with a loop

```
int W = 32;
bit[W] isolate0 (bit[W] x) {      // W: word size
    bit[W] ret = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < W; i++)
        if (!x[i]) { ret[i] = 1; return ret; }
}
```

Can this be done more efficiently with bit manipulation?

- Trick: adding 1 to a string of ones turns the next zero to a 1
- i.e. 000111 + 1 = 001000

Sketch: space of possible implementations

```
/**
 * Generate the set of all bit-vector expressions
 * involving +, &, xor and bitwise negation (~).
 */

generator bit[W] gen(bit[W] x){
    if(??) return x;
    if(??) return ??;
    if(??) return ~gen(x);
    if(??){
        return { | gen(x) (+ | & | ^) gen(x) | };
    }
}
```

Sketch: synthesis goal

```
generator bit[W] gen(bit[W] x, int depth){
    assert depth > 0;
    if(??) return x;
    if(??) return ??;
    if(??) return ~gen(x, depth-1);
    if(??){
        return { | gen(x, depth-1) (+ | & | ^) gen(x, depth-1) | };
    }
}

bit[W] isolate0fast (bit[W] x) implements isolate0 {
    return gen(x, 3);
}
```

Sketch: output

```
bit[W] isolate0fast (bit[W] x) {  
    return (~x) & (x + 1);  
}
```

$\sim 0010\ 0101$ $0010\ 0101 + 1$
= 1101 1010 = 0010 0110

&

0000 0010

Modern program synthesis: Synquid

[Polikarpova et al. 2016]

Problem: intersection of strictly sorted lists

- example: intersect [4, 8, 15, 16, 23, 42] [8, 16, 32, 64] → [8, 16]

Also: we want a guarantee that it's correct on all inputs!

Synquid: synthesis goal and components

Step 1: define synthesis goal as a *type*

`intersect :: xs:List a → ys:List a →
 List a`

sorted list

the set of elements

Step 2: define a set of components

- Which primitive operations is our function likely to use?
- Here: {**Nil**, **Cons**, **<**}

Synquid: output

intersection = \xs . \ys .	xs	ys	result
match xs with			
Nil -> xs	[4, 8, 15, 16, 23, 42]	[8, 16, 32, 64]	
Cons x xt ->	[8, 15, 16, 23, 42]	[8, 16, 32, 64]	[8]
match ys with			
Nil -> ys	[15, 16, 23, 42]	[16, 32, 64]	
Cons y yt ->	[16, 23, 42]	[16, 32, 64]	[8, 16]
if x < y	[23, 42]	[32, 64]	
then intersection xt ys			
else	[42]	[32, 64]	
if y < x	[42]	[64]	
then intersection xs yt			
else Cons x (intersection xt yt)	[]	[64]	

Modern program synthesis: GitHub Copilot

```
// find all images  
// and add a green border around them  
// and add class "githubCopilot" to them
```

input

```
function go() {
```

```
  var images = document.getElementsByTagName('img');
```

```
  for (var i = 0; i < images.length; i++) {
```

```
    if (images[i].className.indexOf('githubCopilot') == -1) {
```

output

```
      images[i].className += ' githubCopilot';
```

```
      images[i].style.border = '1px solid green';
```

```
    }
```

```
  }
```


What is program synthesis?

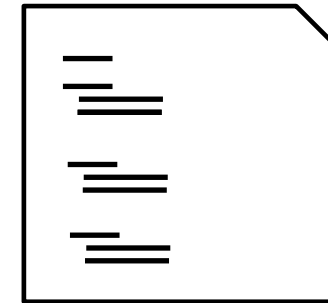
specification



search



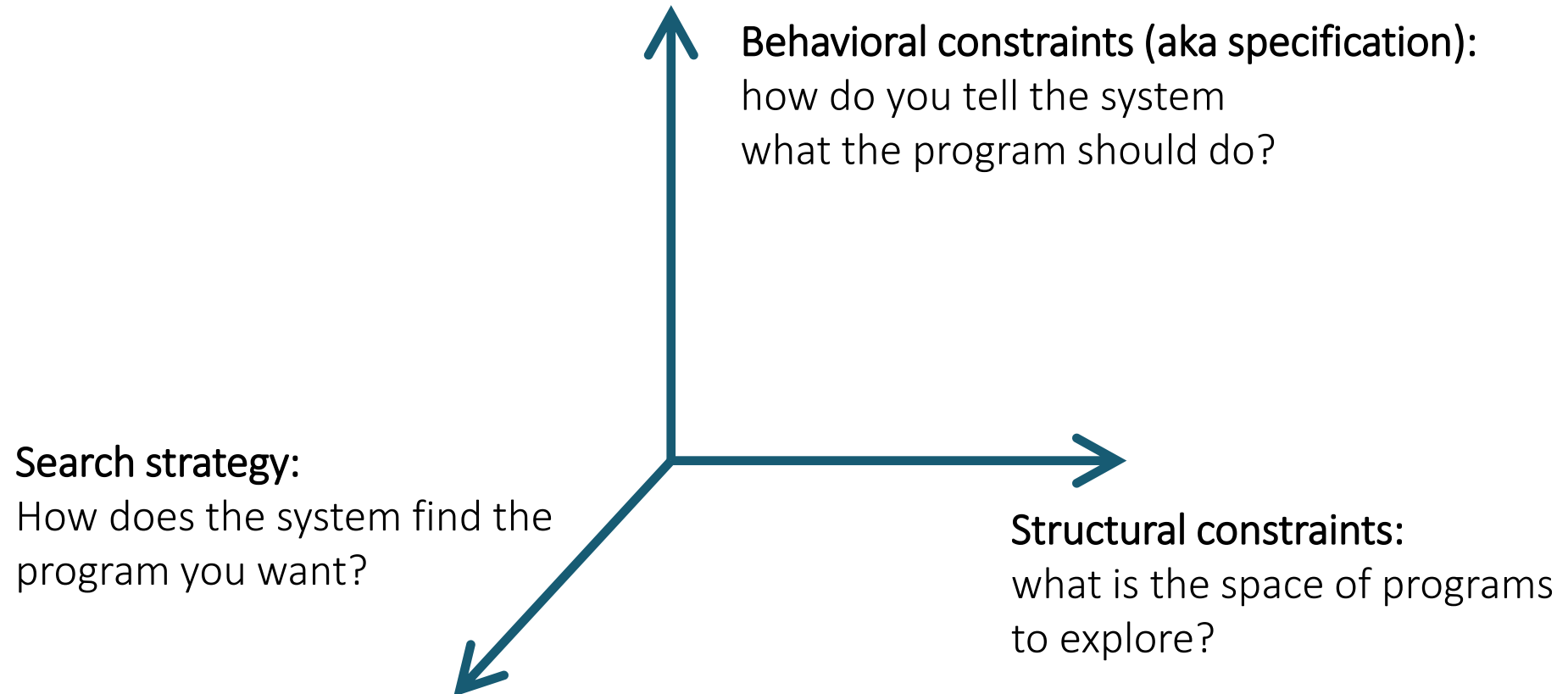
program



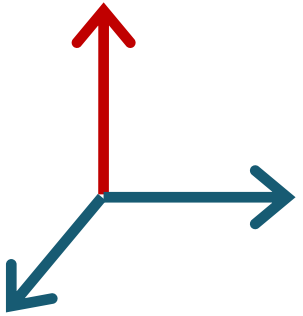
program
space

Dimensions in program synthesis

[Gulwani 2010]



Behavioral constraints

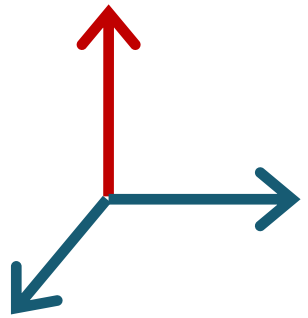


How do you tell the system what the program should do?

- What is the input language / format?
- What is the interaction model?
- What happens when the intent is ambiguous?

Q: What did behavioral constraints look like in FlashFill / Sketch / Synquid / Copilot?

Behavioral constraints: examples



Input/output examples

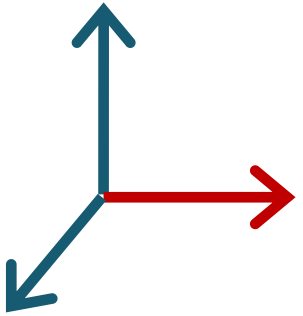
Reference implementation

Formal specifications (pre/post conditions, types, ...)

Natural language

Context

Structural constraints

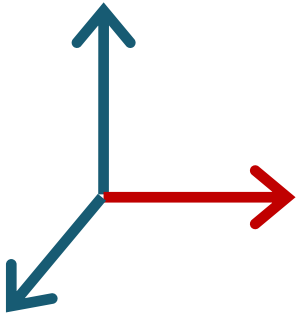


What is the space of programs to explore?

- Large enough to contain interesting programs, yet small enough to exclude garbage and enable efficient search
- Built-in or user defined?
- Can we extract domain knowledge from existing code?

Q: What did structural constraints look like in FlashFill / Sketch / Synquid / Copilot?

Structural constraints: examples



Built-in DSL

User-defined DSL (grammar)

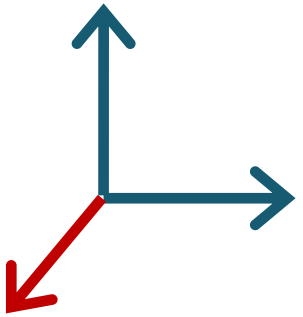
User-provided components

Languages with synthesis constructs

- e.g. generators in Sketch

General-purpose language + learned model

Search strategies



Synthesis is search:

- Find a program in the space defined by *structural constraints* that satisfies *behavioral constraints*

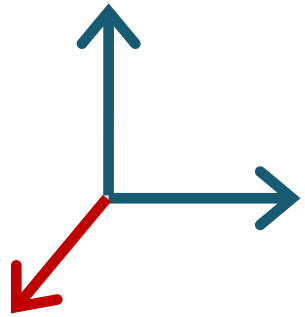
Challenge: the space is astronomically large

- The search algorithm is the heart of a synthesis technique

How does the system find the program you want?

- How does it know it's the program you want?
- How can it leverage structural constraints to guide the search?
- How can it leverage behavioral constraints to guide the search?

Search strategies: examples



Enumerative (explicit) search

- exhaustively enumerate all programs in the language in the order of increasing size

Stochastic search

- random exploration of the search space guided by a fitness function

Representation-based search

- use a data structure to represent a large set of programs

Constraint-based search

- translate to constraints and use a solver

Structure of the Course

Module 1: Synthesis of Simple Programs

- Easy to decide when a program is correct
- Challenge: search in a large space

Module 2: Synthesis of Complex Programs

- Deciding when a program is correct can be hard
- Search in a large space is still a problem

Module 3: Advanced Topics

- Human aspects, applications, neural synthesis

Module 1: Searching for Simple Programs

Example: FlashFill

specification

- 1: "Polikarpova, Nadia" → "Nadia"
- 2: "Van Damme, Jean Claude" → "Jean"

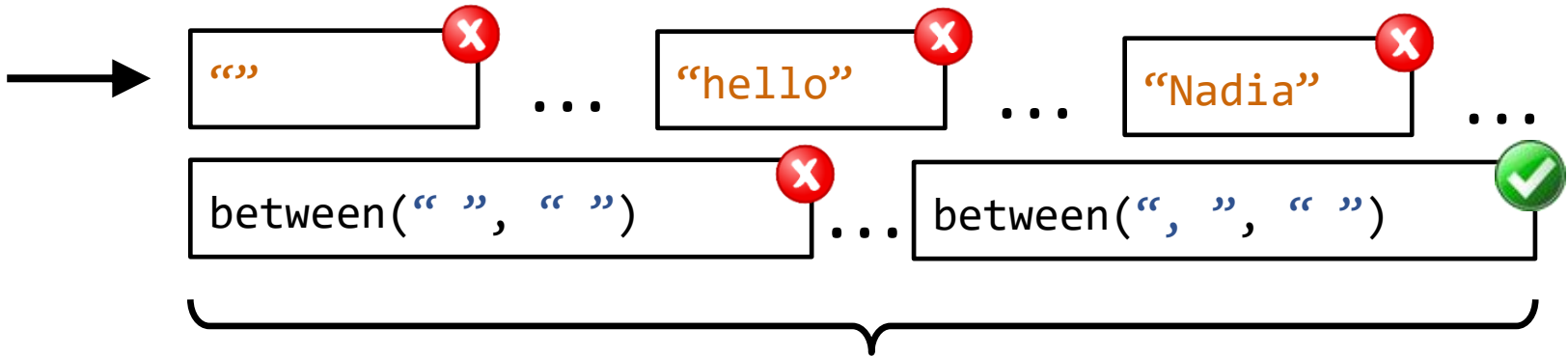
program space

constant string:

"..."

or substring of input:

between("...", "...")



too many



Module 2: Searching for Complex Programs

Example: Synquid

specification

```
intersect :: xs:SList a →  
  ys:SList a →  
  {v:SList a | elems v = elems xs ∩  
                      elems ys}
```



program

```
intersection = \xs . \ys .  
  match xs with  
  Nil -> xs  
  Cons x xt ->  
    match ys with  
    Nil -> ys  
    Cons y yt ->  
      if x < y  
      then intersection xt ys  
      else  
        if y < x  
        then intersection xs yt  
        else Cons x (intersection xt yt)
```

How do we know this program always
produces a sorted list that is the
intersection?

Module 3: Advanced Topics

Synthesis as a Programming Tool

- How can synthesis help programmers?
- What is the right user interaction model?

Domain-Specific Synthesis

- Optimization
- CAD models
- Cryptographic schemes
- SQL / Regex

Weeks 1-2

Topic: Enumerative synthesis from examples

Paper: Alur, Radhakrishna, Udupa. [Scaling Enumerative Program Synthesis via Divide and Conquer](#)

- Review due Wednesday
- Link to PDF on the course wiki
- Submit through Google Form (link on course wiki)

Project:

- Teams due next Friday
- Submit through a Google Sheet (check email for invite and instructions)