DreamCoder: Bootstrapping Domain-Specific Languages for Neurally-Guided Bayesian Program Learning

Kevin Ellis, Lucas Morales, Mathias Sablé Meyer, Maxwell Nye, Armando Solar-Lezama, Joshua B. Tenenbaum

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Wake/Sleep DSL Induction

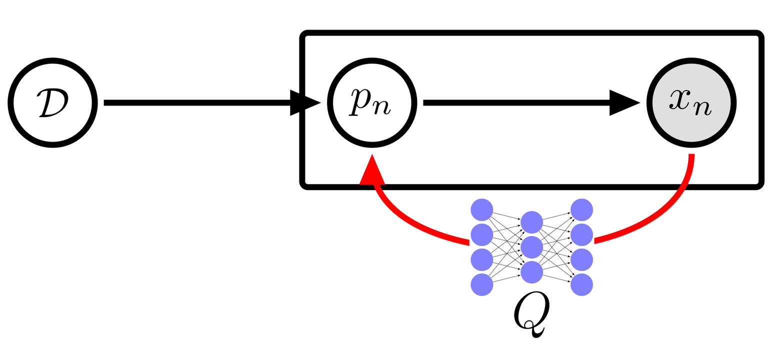
Domain Specific Language (DSL): A finely-tuned program representation, specialized to a domain of programming tasks. Prior work in program learning largely uses hand-engineered DSLs.

Approach: DreamCoder algorithm, which bootstraps a learned DSL while jointly training a neural net to search for programs in the learned DSL. Given a few hundred programming tasks, alternatingly:

- **Wake**: synthesize programs
- **Sleep-R**: train neural net (**R**ecognition model)
- **Sleep-G**: improve DSL (**G**enerative model)

Program representation: ≈Lisp; conditionals, variables, λ abstraction

Bayesian framing



Observe N **tasks**, written $\{x_n\}_{n=1}^{N}$, each a program synthesis problem.

Solve task x_n with latent program p_n

Likelihood model $\mathbb{P}[x_n|p_n]$ scores program p_n on task x_n

Latent **DSL** $\mathcal{D}$ acts as generative model over programs: $\mathbb{P}[x|\mathcal{D}]$

$$\underbrace{p_n^* = \arg\max_{p_n} \mathbb{P}[x_n|p_n]\mathbb{P}[p_n|\mathcal{D}^*]}_{\textbf{Wake}}$$

$$\underbrace{\mathcal{D}^* = \arg\max_{\mathcal{D}} \mathbb{P}[\mathcal{D}] \prod_n \sum_{p_n} \mathbb{P}[x_n|p_n]\mathbb{P}[p_n|\mathcal{D}]}_{\textbf{Sleep-G}}$$

Neural recognition model

Neural network $Q(p|x)$ predicts distribution over programs conditioned on tasks. Simple Q: just predicts probabilities of DSL productions. Goal: learn to invert generative model

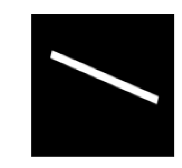
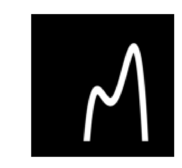
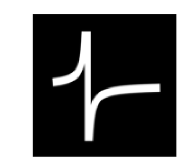
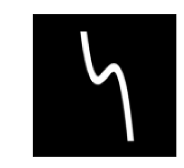
$$\underbrace{\min_Q \mathrm{KL}\left(\mathbb{P}[p|x,\mathcal{D}]||Q(p|x)\right)}_{\textbf{Sleep-R}}$$

Train on two sources of data:

- **Samples ("Dreams") from DSL**: Unlimited data, but only high-quality if generative model $\mathcal{D}$ is good. Like Helmholtz Machine's recognition model training. Loss:
$$\mathbb{E}_{(p,x)\sim\mathcal{D}}\left[\log Q(p|x)\right]$$
- **Self-Supervised**: (x_n, p_n) pairs discovered during waking. Loss:
$$\frac{\mathbb{P}\left[x_n, p_n|\mathcal{D}\right]}{\sum_{(x_n,p_n')}\mathbb{P}\left[x_n,p_n|\mathcal{D}\right]}\log Q(p_n|x_n)$$

Model outputs for three different task domains

	List Functions		Text Editing	Symbolic Regression	

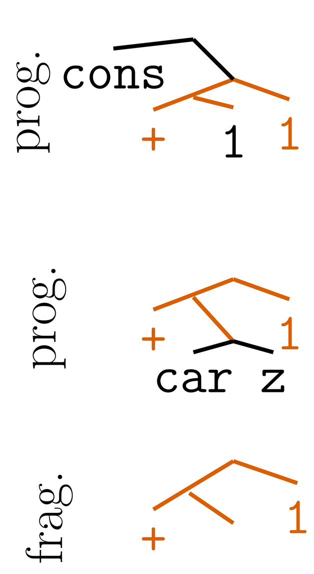
Programs & Tasks	`[7 2 3]`→`[7 3]`
	`[1 2 3 4]`→`[3 4]`
	`[4 3 2 1]`→`[4 3]`
	$f(\ell)$ = `(`f_1 ℓ `(λ (x) (> x 2)))`
	
	`[2 7 8 1]`→`8`
	`[3 19 14]`→`19`
	$f(\ell)$ = `(`f_2 ℓ`)`
		`[7 3]`→`False`
		`[3]`→`False`
		`[9 0 0]`→`True`
		`[0]`→`True`
		`[0 7 3]`→`True`
		$f(\ell)$ = `(`f_3 ℓ `0)`
			+106 769-438→106.769.438
			+83 973-831→83.973.831
			f(`s`) = `(`f_0 `"." "-"`
			`(`f_0 `"." " "`
			`(cdr s)))`
			
			Temple Anna H →TAH
			Lara Gregori→LG
			f(`s`) = `(`f_2 `s)`
				
				f(`x`) = `(`f_1 `x)`
				
				f(`x`) = `(`f_4 `x)`
					
					f(`x`) = `(`f_6 `x)`
					
					f(`x`) = `(`f_3 `x)`

DSL	f_1(`ℓ,p`) = `(foldr ℓ nil (λ (x a) (if (p x) (cons x a) a)))` (f_1: *Higher-order filter function*) f_2(`ℓ`) = `(foldr ℓ 0 (λ (x a) (if (> a x) a x)))` (f_2: *Maximum element in list* ℓ) f_3(`ℓ,k`) = `(foldr ℓ (is-nil ℓ) (λ (x a) (if a a (= k x))))` (f_3: *Whether* ℓ *contains* `k`)		f_0(`s,a,b`) = `(map (λ (x) (if (= x a) b x)) s)` (f_0: *substitutes characters*) f_1(`s,c`) = `(foldr s s (λ (x a) (cdr (if (= c x) s a))))` (f_1: *Drop characters from* `s` *until* `c` *reached*) f_2(`s`) = `(unfold s is-nil car (λ (z) (`f_1 `z " ")))` (f_2: *Abbreviates words*)	f_0(`x`) = `(+ x real)` f_1(`x`) = `(`f_0 `(* real x))` f_2(`x`) = `(`f_1 `(* x (`f_0 `x)))` f_3(`x`) = `(`f_0 `(* x (`f_2 `x)))` f_4(`x`) = `(`f_0 `(* x (`f_3 `x)))` (f_4: *4th order polynomial*) f_5(`x`) = `(/ real x)` f_6(`x`) = `(`f_5 `(`f_0 `x))` (f_6: *rational function*)	

Top: Tasks from three domains we apply our algorithm to, each followed by the programs DreamCoder discovers for them. Bottom: Several examples from learned DSL. Notice that learned DSL primitives can call each other, and that DreamCoder rediscovers higher-order functions like `filter` (f_1 under List Functions)

Fragment Grammars: Inducing a DSL

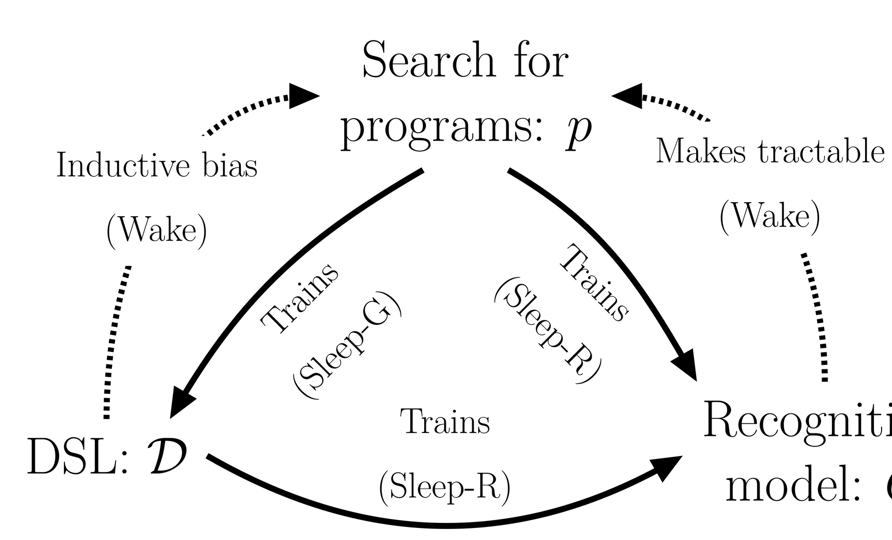
Fragment grammars: introduced in computational linguistics (O'Donnell 2015)



Example synthesized programs	Proposed λ-expression
`(λ (s) (map (λ (x) (if (= x '.') '-' x))) s)` `(λ (s) (map (λ (x) (if (= x '-') ',' x))) s)`	`(λ (s) (map (λ (x) (if (= x α) β x))) s)`

Figure 1: **Left:** syntax trees of two programs sharing common structure, highlighted in orange, from which we extract a fragment and add it to the DSL (bottom). **Right:** actual programs, from which we extract fragments that perform character substitutions.

Why this works: Bootstrapping



- Search finds new programs ⟹ DSL+recognition model get more data
- DSL improves ⟹ easier search, recognition model gets better data
- Recognition model improves ⟹ easier search

Ongoing work: Generative models

Learn probabilistic program (a regex) p_n from K strings $x_n = \{y_n^k\}_{k=1}^{k}$.
Likelihood model:

$$\mathbb{P}[x_n|p_n] = \prod_{k=1}^{K}\mathbb{P}[y_n^k|p_n]$$

Tasks:

cut	F	Moss Side
control	CL	Burnage
control	F	City Centre
cut	PCFL	Brooklands

Learned generative models:

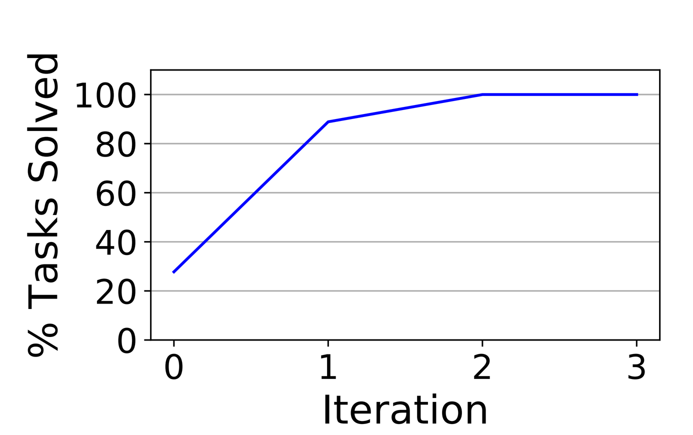
```
\l*\l    ((\u\u)*)|F    ( |\u\w*)*
```

Samples from synthesized generative models:

ya	DQDF	Vr DR
glrwfdcnc	F	BeF lKQ
mgs	F	W
piljnl	KI	kqBfZ 0
kj	F	ON
zci	GL	Bttc
sxpm	F	S

Learned DSL:

- $f_1()$ = `\u\w*`
- $f_2(x)$ = `(`x`|`f_1`)*` = `(`x`|\u\w*)*`
- $f_3(x) = f_2($`space`$)$ = `( |\u\w*)*`
- $f_4(x)$ = `(`x`*`x`)` *(equivalent to regex 'plus')*
- $f_5() = f_4($`\l`$)$ = `\l*\l`



Learning from Scratch

Start w/ McCarthy 1959 Lisp: recursion, conditionals, lists. Train on 22 programming exercises. After 93 hours on 64 CPUs, rediscovers 9 functional programming staples: `map`, `fold`, `zip`, `unfold`, `index`, `length`, `range`, `incr`, `decr`.