

# DreamCoder: **Growing libraries of concepts with wake-sleep program induction**

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Kevin Ellis

Joint with: Lucas Morales, Mathias Sablé Meyer, Armando Solar-Lezama,  
Joshua B. Tenenbaum

Heavy inspiration from: Eyal Dechter

October 2018

MIT

# Human program induction everywhere

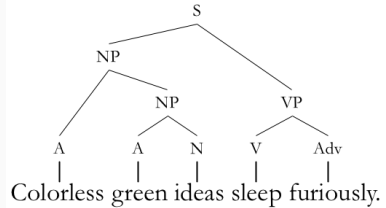
```
(MEMBER  
  (LAMBDA (X L)  
    (COND ((NULL L) NIL)  
          ((EQ X (FIRST L)) T)  
          (T (MEMBER X (REST L))))))
```

**Allen, Anatomy of Lisp, 1975**

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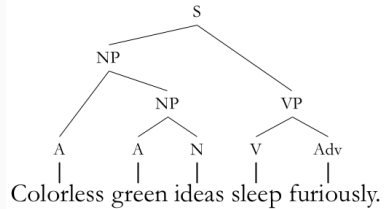
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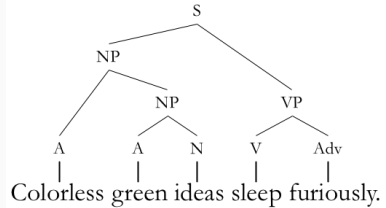
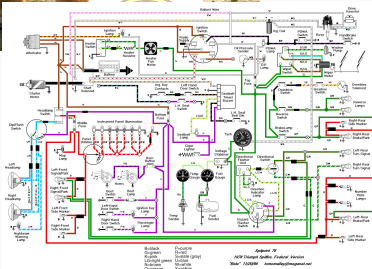
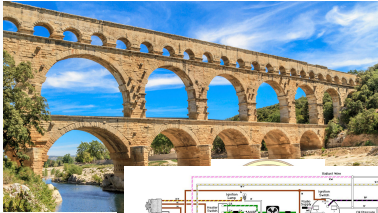
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## Growing domain-specific knowledge

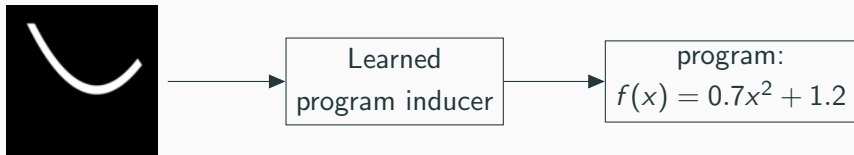
Goal: acquire domain-specific knowledge needed to induce a class of programs

- Library of concepts (declarative knowledge; generative model over programs)
- Inference strategy (procedural knowledge)

# Growing domain-specific knowledge

Goal: acquire domain-specific knowledge needed to induce a class of programs

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Concepts:  $x^2$ , etc

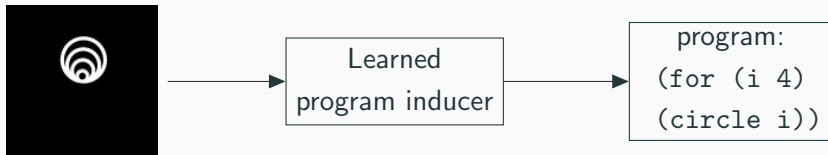
Inference strategy: neurosymbolic search for programs



# Growing domain-specific knowledge

Goal: acquire domain-specific knowledge needed to induce a class of programs

- Library of concepts (declarative knowledge; generative model over programs)
- Inference strategy (procedural knowledge)



Concepts: `circle`, etc

Inference strategy: neurosymbolic search for programs

# DSL: Library of concepts

## Tasks and Programs

```
[7 2 3] → [7 3]
[1 2 3 4] → [3 4]
[4 3 2 1] → [4 3]    [7 3] → False
f(ℓ) = (f1 ℓ (λ (x)    [3] → False
    (> x 2)))          [9 0 0] → True
                        [0] → True
                        [0 7 3] → True
                        f(ℓ) = (f3 ℓ 0)
[2 7 8 1] → 8
[3 19 14] → 19
f(ℓ) = (f2 ℓ)
```

## DSL

```
f0(ℓ, r) = (foldr r ℓ cons)
           (f0: Append lists r and ℓ)
f1(ℓ, p) = (foldr ℓ nil (λ (x a)
    (if (p x) (cons x a) a)))
           (f1: Higher-order filter function)
f2(ℓ) = (foldr ℓ 0 (λ (x a)
    (if (> a x) a x)))
           (f2: Maximum element in list ℓ)
f3(ℓ, k) = (foldr ℓ (is-nil ℓ)
    (λ (x a) (if a a (= k x))))
           (f3: Whether ℓ contains k)
```

- **Wake:** Solve problems by writing programs
- **Sleep:** Improve DSL and neural recognition model:
  - **Sleep-G:** Improve DSL (**G**enerative model)
  - **Sleep-R:** Improve **R**ecognition model

Combines ideas from Wake-Sleep & Exploration-Compression algorithm by Eyal Dechter

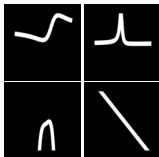


# DreamCoder

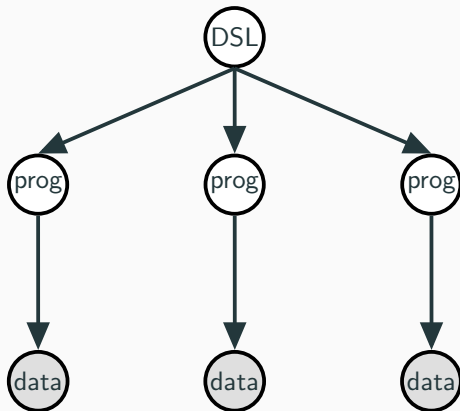
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```
(let ((me 'whisper)
      (it 'into)
      (your 'ear))
  (let ((me (lisp it))
        (to (you)))
    (secretly)))
```



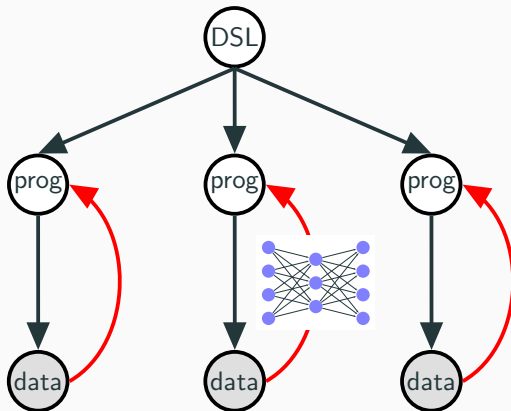
# DSL learning as Bayesian inference



[Dechter et al., 2013] [Liang et al, 2010]; [Lake et al, 2015]

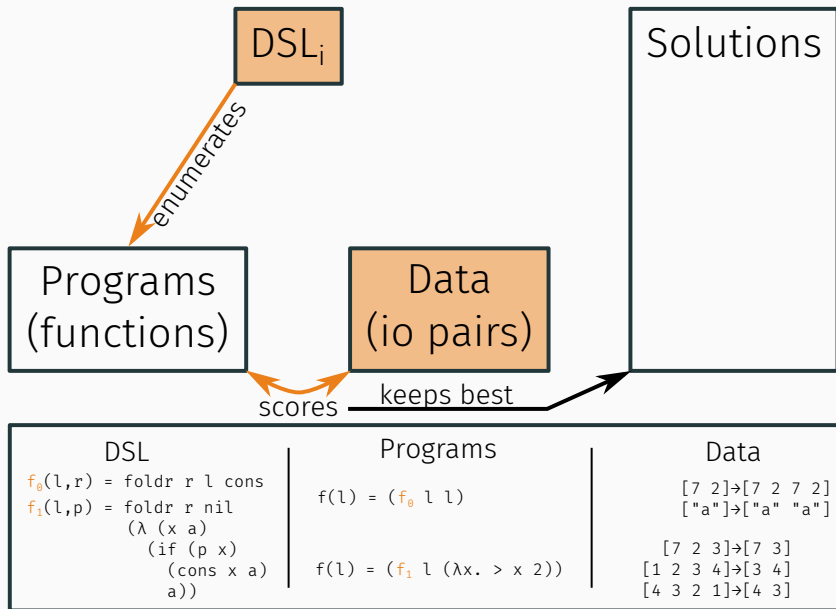
**Dechter et al.:** Exploration-Compression. Inspiration for DreamCoder.

# DSL learning as **amortized** Bayesian inference

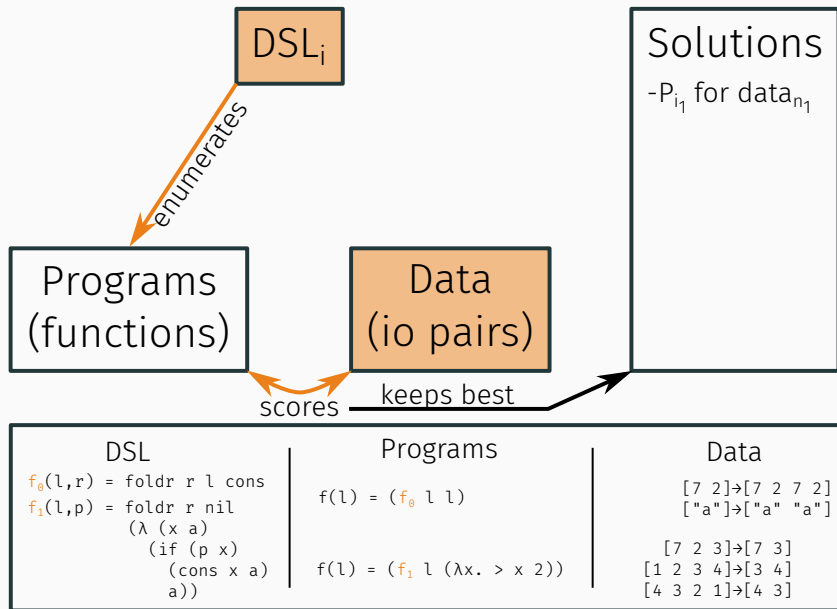


**New:** amortized inference +  
better program representation (Lisp) +  
better DSL inference

## Wake — as in Exploration/Compression Algorithm

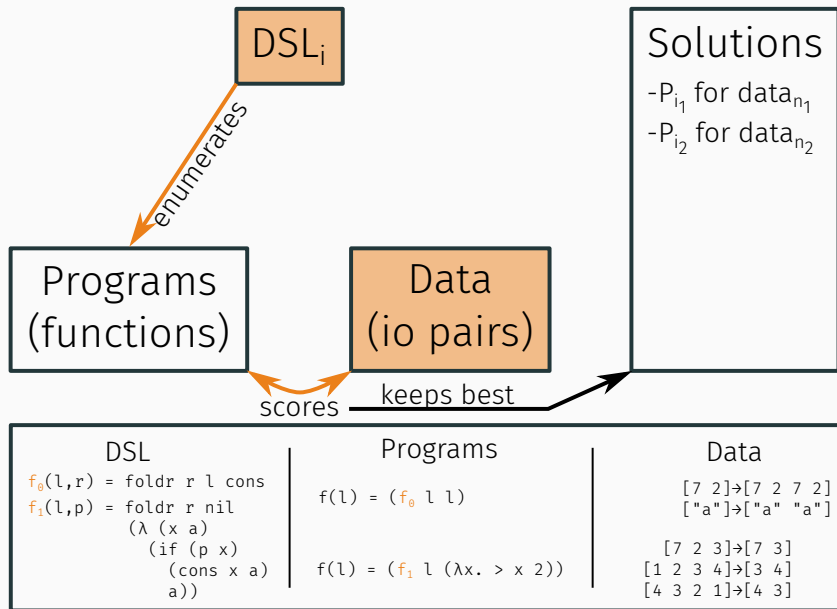


## Wake — as in Exploration/Compression Algorithm

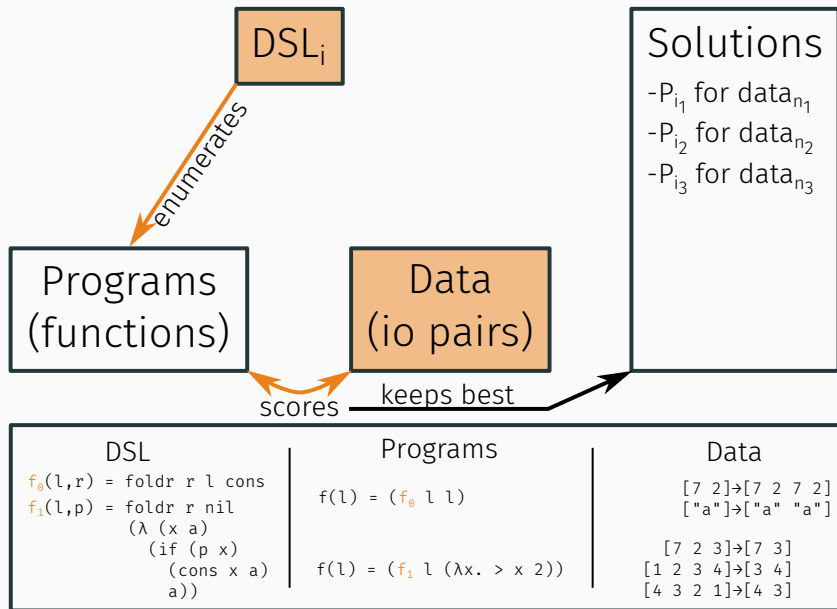




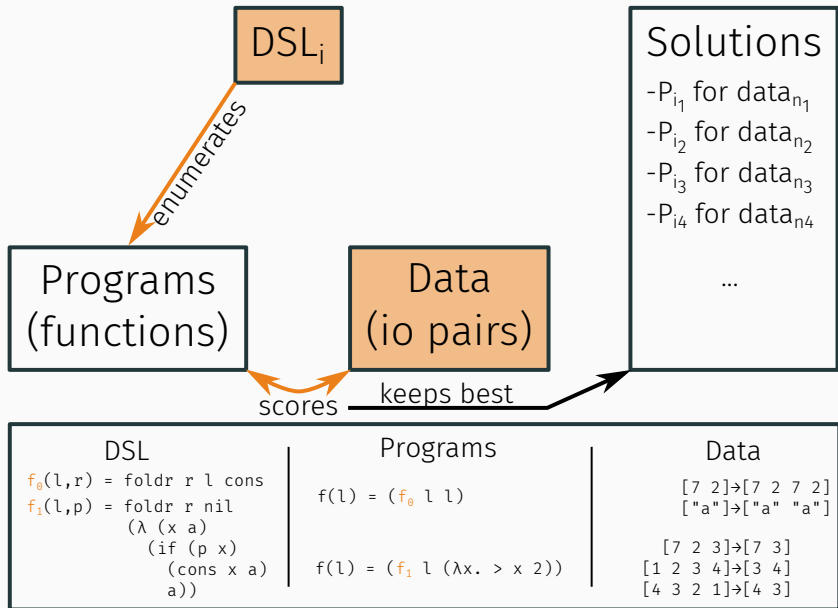
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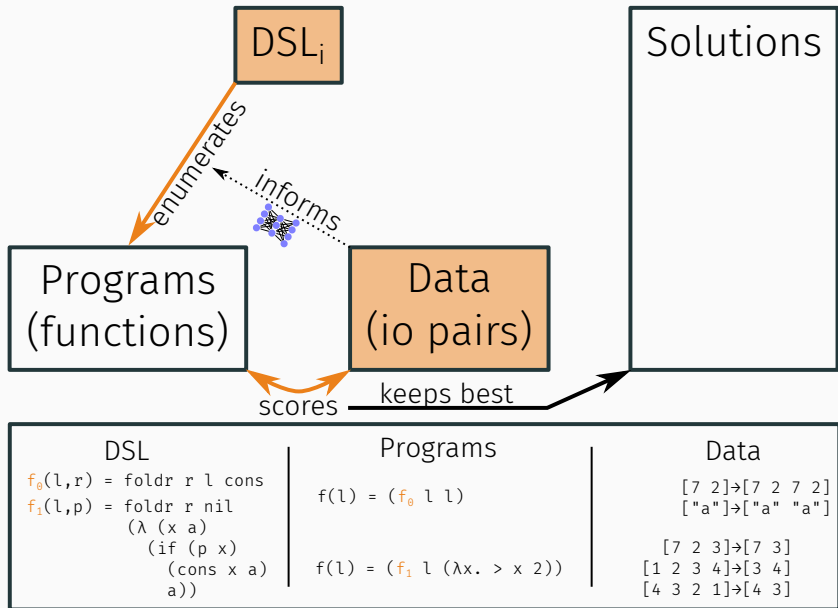


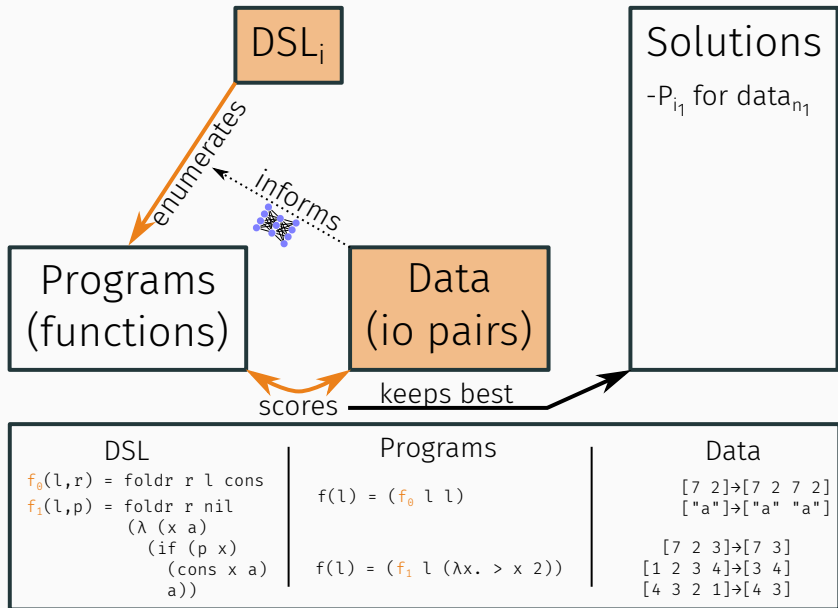
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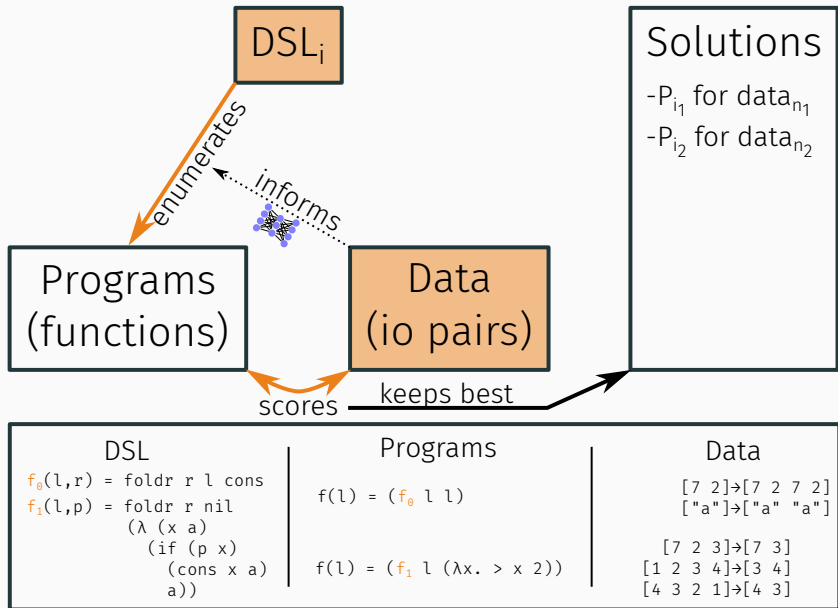


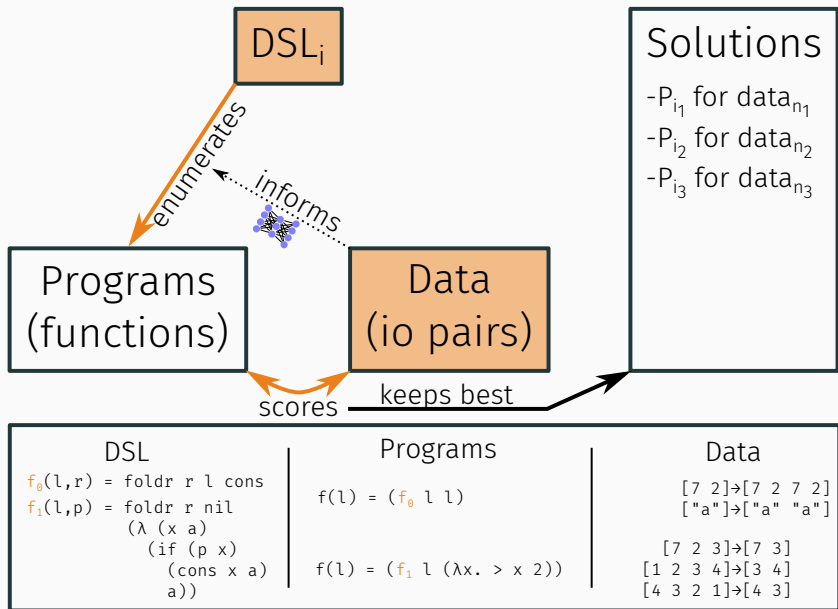
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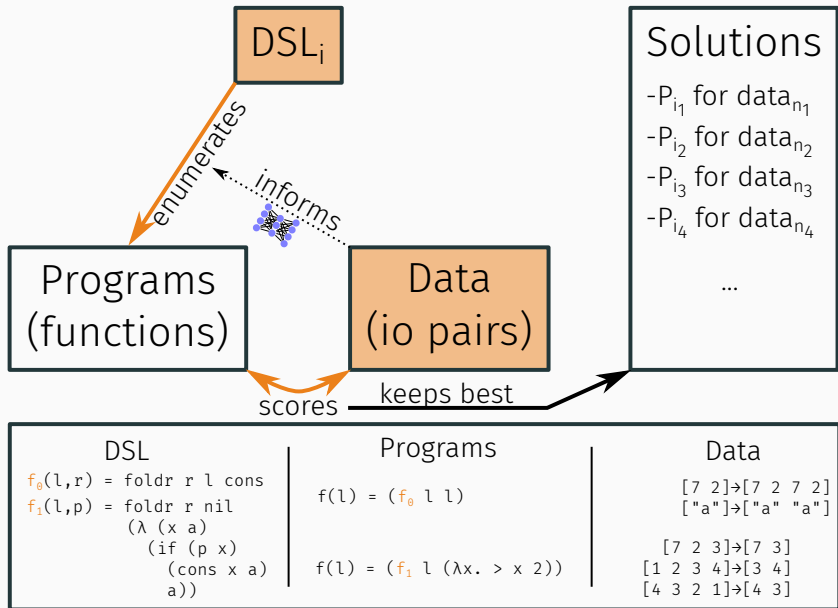






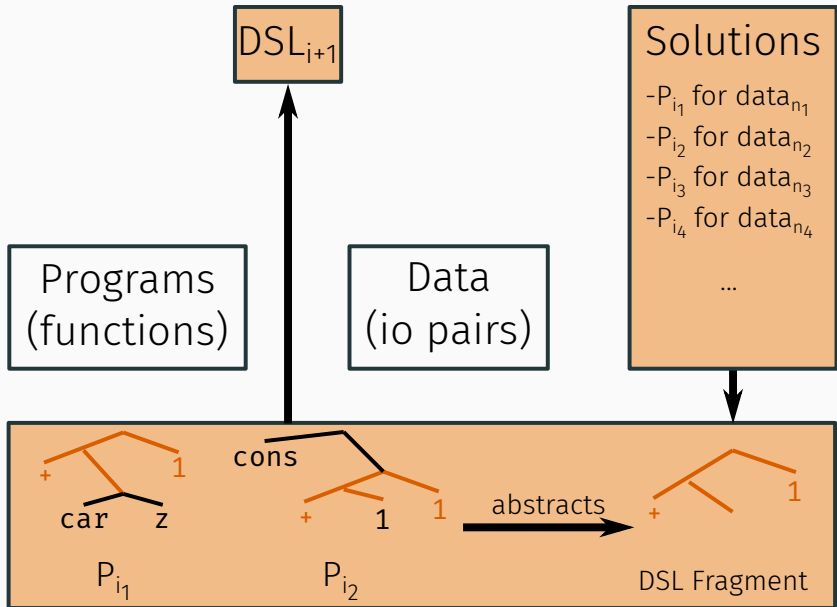








# DreamCoder — Sleep-G



## DreamCoder — Sleep-G (Refactoring)

### Learning higher-order map function

Task	Program
$(1\ 2\ 3) \rightarrow (2\ 4\ 6)$ $(1\ 9\ 2) \rightarrow (2\ 18\ 4)$	<pre>(Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l) nil   (cons (+ (car l) (car l))     (r (cdr l))))))</pre>
$(1\ 2\ 3) \rightarrow (2\ 3\ 4)$ $(1\ 9\ 2) \rightarrow (2\ 10\ 3)$	<pre>(Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l) nil   (cons (+ (car l) 1)     (r (cdr l))))))</pre>

## DreamCoder — Sleep-G (Refactoring)

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```
map = (λ (f) (Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l) nil
  (cons (f (car l))
    (r (cdr l))))))
```

# DreamCoder — Sleep-G (Refactoring)

## Learning higher-order map function

Task

Program

(1 2 3) → (2 4 6)	((λ (f) (Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l) nil
(1 9 2) → (2 18 4)	(cons (f (car l))
	(r (cdr l))))))
	(λ (z) (+ z z)))

(1 2 3) → (2 3 4)	((λ (f) (Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l) nil
(1 9 2) → (2 10 3)	(cons (f (car l))
	(r (cdr l))))))
	(λ (z) (+ z 1)))

*map* = (λ (f) (Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l) nil  
(cons (f (car l))  
(r (cdr l))))))

```
(Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l) nil
  (cons (+ (car l) (car l))
    (r (cdr l))))))
```

refactor

```
((λ (f) (Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l)
  nil
  (cons (f (car l))
    (r (cdr l)))))))
(λ (z) (+ z z)))
```

```
(Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l) nil
  (cons (+ (car l) 1)
    (r (cdr l))))))
```

refactor

```
((λ (f) (Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l)
  nil
  (cons (f (car l))
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```

**Compress (MDL/Bayes objective)**

```
map = (λ (f) (Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l) nil
  (cons (f (car l))
    (r (cdr l)))))))
```

```
(Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l) nil
  (cons (+ (car l) (car l))
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```

refactor

```
((λ (f) (Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l)
  (cons (+ (car l) (car l))
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  (λ (z) (+ z z))))
```

**10<sup>14</sup> refactorings**

```
(Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l) nil
  (cons (+ (car l) 1)
    (r (cdr l))))))
```

refactor

```
((λ (f) (Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l)
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```

**10<sup>13</sup> refactorings**

Compress (MDL/Bayes objective)

```
map = (λ (f) (Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l) nil
  (cons (f (car l))
    (r (cdr l))))))
```

# version space: set of programs

Lau 2003; Gulwani 2012

```
(cons (f (car 1) (car 1))  
      (r (cdr 1))))))
```

```
(cons (f (car 1) 1)  
      (r (cdr 1))))))
```

refactor

refactor

```
((λ (f) (Y (λ (r 1) (if (nil? 1)  
                        1))  
            (λ (z) (+ z z))))
```

$10^{14}$   
refactorings

```
((λ (f) (Y (λ (r 1) (if (nil? 1)  
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refactorings

Compress (MDL/Bayes objective)

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map = (λ (f) (Y (λ (r 1) (if (nil? 1) nil  
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                                   (r (cdr 1))))))
```

```
(Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l) nil  
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```

refactor

```
((λ (f) (Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l)
```

$\leq 10^6$

version spaces

```
(λ (z) (+ z z)))
```

```
(Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l) nil  
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refactor

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```

$\leq 10^6$

version spaces

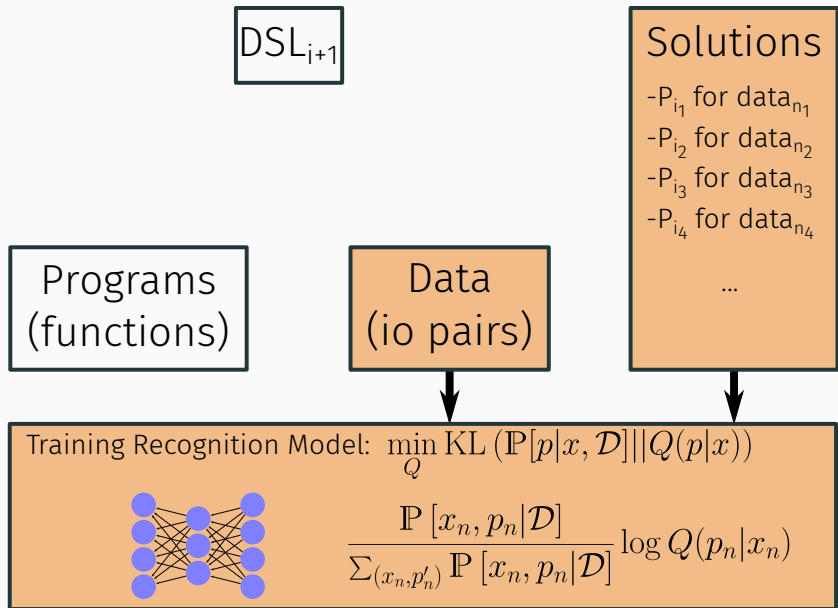
```
(λ (z) (+ z 1)))
```

Compress (MDL/Bayes objective)

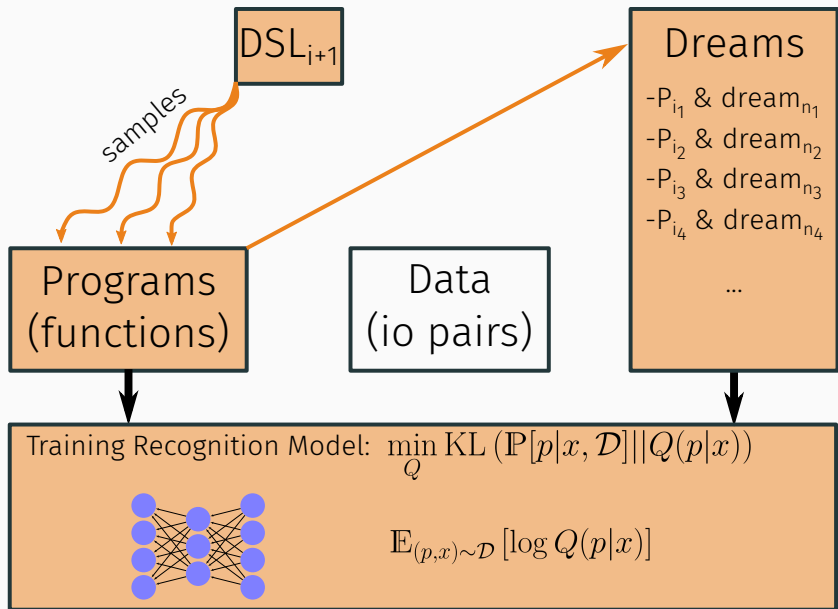
```
map = (λ (f) (Y (λ (r l) (if (nil? l) nil  
  (cons (f (car l))  
        (r (cdr l))))))
```



# DreamCoder — Sleep-R (Experience Replay)



## DreamCoder — Sleep-R (Dreaming)



## List functions — Created & investigated by Lucas Morales

Name	Input	Output
repeat-3	[7 0]	[7 0 7 0 7 0]
drop-3	[0 3 8 6 4]	[6 4]
rotate-2	[8 14 1 9]	[1 9 8 14]
count-head-in-tail	[1 2 1 1 3]	2
keep-div-5	[5 9 14 6 3 0]	[5 0]
product	[7 1 6 2]	84

Discovers 38 concepts, including 'filter'.



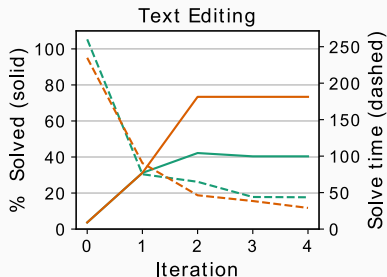
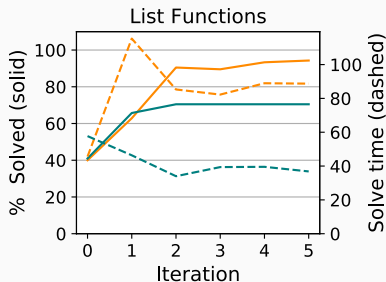
In the style of FlashFill (Gulwani 2012)

Text Editing
$+106\ 769-438 \rightarrow 106.769.438$ $+83\ 973-831 \rightarrow 83.973.831$ $f(s) = (f_0\ \text{"."}\ \text{"-"}\ \text{" "}$ $(f_0\ \text{"."}\ \text{" "}\ \text{" "}$ $(\text{cdr}\ s)))$
Temple Anna H $\rightarrow$ TAH Lara Gregori $\rightarrow$ LG $f(s) = (f_2\ s)$
$f_0(s,a,b) = (\text{map}\ (\lambda\ (x)\$ $(\text{if}\ (= x\ a)\ b\ x))\ s)$ $(f_0: \text{Performs character substitution})$ $f_1(s,c) = (\text{foldr}\ s\ s\ (\lambda\ (x\ a)\$ $(\text{cdr}\ (\text{if}\ (= c\ x)\ s\ a))))$ $(f_1: \text{Drop characters from } s \text{ until } c \text{ reached})$ $f_2(s) = (\text{unfold}\ s\ \text{is-nil}\ \text{car}$ $(\lambda\ (z)\ (f_1\ z\ \text{" "}))$ $(f_2: \text{Abbreviates a sequence of words})$

SyGuS problems: solves 3% before learning, vs 75% after learning.

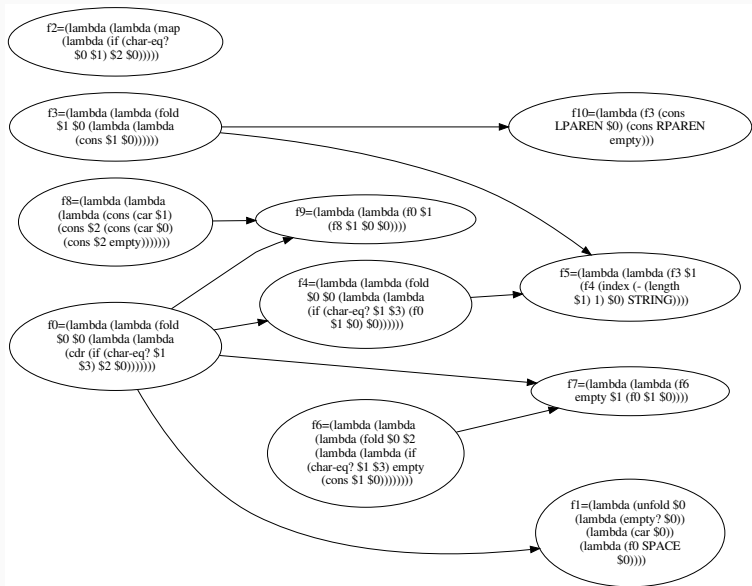
Best prior work: 80%

# List functions & Text editing: Learning curves on hold out tasks

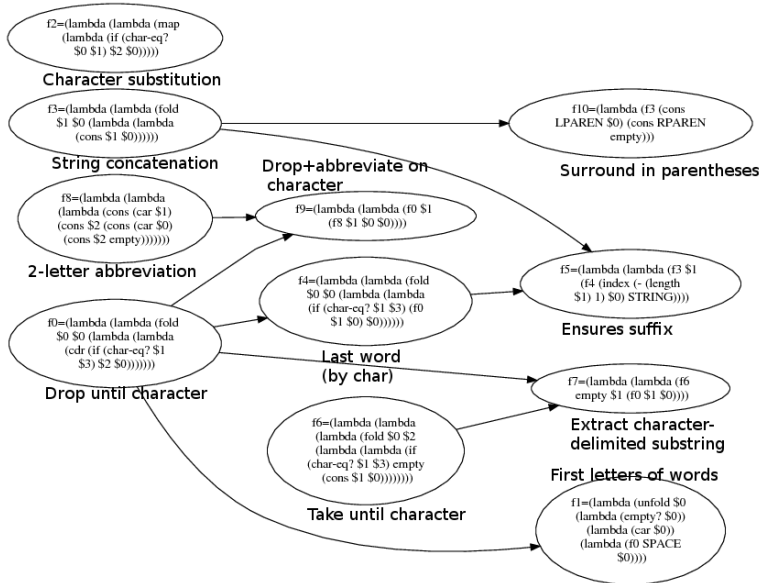


Learning curves for DreamCoder both with (in orange) and without (in teal) the recognition model. Solid lines: % holdout testing tasks solved w/ 10m timeout. Dashed lines: Average solve time, averaged only over tasks that are solved.

# Learned text processing DSL



# Learned text processing DSL



# Learning the fundamentals of programming

Programs & Tasks	DSL
<pre>[2 1 4]→[2 1 4 0] [9 8]→[9 8 0] f(ℓ)=(f<sub>2</sub> cons ℓ (cons 0 nil))</pre>	<pre>f<sub>0</sub>(p,f,n,x)=(if (p x) nil                   (cons (f x) (f<sub>0</sub> (n x)))) (f<sub>0</sub>: unfold)</pre>
<pre>[2 5 6 0 6]→19 [9 2 7 6 3]→27 f(ℓ)=(f<sub>2</sub> + ℓ 0)</pre>	<pre>f<sub>1</sub>(i,l)=(if (= i 0) (car l)              (f<sub>1</sub> (- i 1) (cdr l))) (f<sub>1</sub>: index)</pre>
<pre>[4 2 6 4]→[8 4 12 8] [2 3 0 7]→[4 6 0 14] f(ℓ)=(f<sub>3</sub> (λ (x) (+ x x)) ℓ)</pre>	<pre>f<sub>2</sub>(f,l,x)=(if (empty? l) x                (f (car l) (f<sub>2</sub> (cdr l)))) (f<sub>2</sub>: fold) f<sub>3</sub>(f,l)=(f<sub>2</sub> nil l (λ (x a) (cons (f x) a))) (f<sub>3</sub>: map)</pre>
<pre>[1 5 2 9]→[1 2] [3 8 1 3 1 2]→[3 1 1] f(ℓ)=(f<sub>0</sub> empty? car       (λ (l) (cdr (cdr l))) ℓ)</pre>	<pre>f<sub>4</sub>(ℓ)=(if (empty? ℓ) 0 (+ 1 (f<sub>4</sub> (cdr ℓ)))) (f<sub>4</sub>: length) f<sub>5</sub>(n)=(f<sub>0</sub> (= n) (λ (x) x) (+ 1) 0) (f<sub>5</sub>: range)</pre>

McCarthy 1959 Lisp → Modern functional programming

22 tasks. 64 CPUs. 93 hours.



# Symbolic regression from visual input

## Symbolic Regression



$$f(x) = (f_1 \ x)$$



$$f(x) = (f_6 \ x)$$



$$f(x) = (f_4 \ x)$$



$$f(x) = (f_3 \ x)$$

---

$f_0(x) = (+ \ x \ \text{real})$   
 $f_1(x) = (f_0 \ (* \ \text{real} \ x))$   
 $f_2(x) = (f_1 \ (* \ x \ (f_0 \ x)))$   
 $f_3(x) = (f_0 \ (* \ x \ (f_2 \ x)))$   
 $f_4(x) = (f_0 \ (* \ x \ (f_3 \ x)))$   
*( $f_4$ : 4th order polynomial)*  
 $f_5(x) = (/ \ \text{real} \ x)$   
 $f_6(x) = (f_5 \ (f_0 \ x))$   
*( $f_6$ : rational function)*

---

## DSL

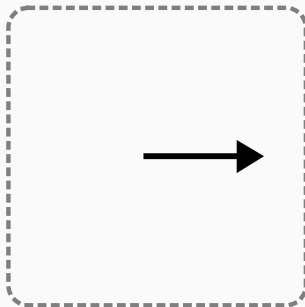
OP ::= FW x | RT x | UP | DOWN | SET state

## Tasks

task : image



FW 1



## DSL

OP ::= FW x | RT x | UP | DOWN | SET state

## Tasks

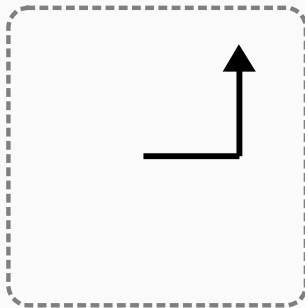
task : image



```
FW 1
```

```
RT  $\frac{\pi}{2}$ 
```

```
FW 1
```



## DSL

OP ::= FW x | RT x | UP | DOWN | SET state

## Tasks

task : image



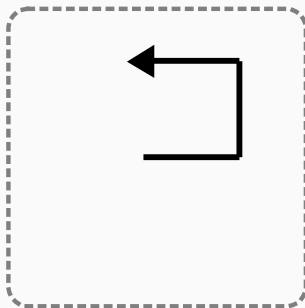
```
FW 1
```

```
RT  $\frac{\pi}{2}$ 
```

```
FW 1
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RT  $\frac{\pi}{2}$ 
```

```
FW 1
```



## DSL

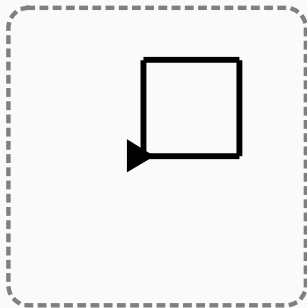
OP ::= FW x | RT x | UP | DOWN | SET state

## Tasks

task : image



```
for i in range(4)
> FW 1
> RT  $\frac{\pi}{2}$ 
```



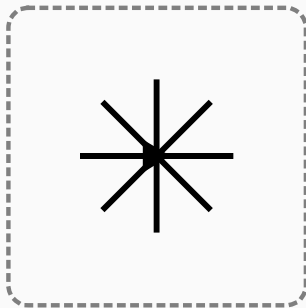
## DSL

OP ::= FW x | RT x | UP | DOWN | SET state

## Tasks

task : image

```
for i in range(8)
> FW 1
> SET origin
> RT  $\frac{2\pi}{8}$ 
```



## DSL

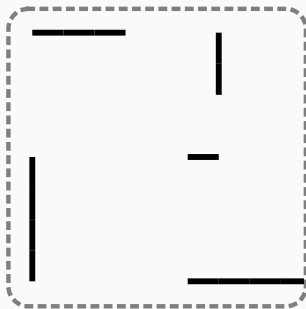
OP ::= FW x | RT x | UP | DOWN | SET state

## Tasks

task : image



```
for i in range(8)
> PU
> FW  $\frac{i}{2}$ 
> PD
> FW  $\frac{i}{2}$ 
> RT  $\frac{\pi}{2}$ 
```



## DSL

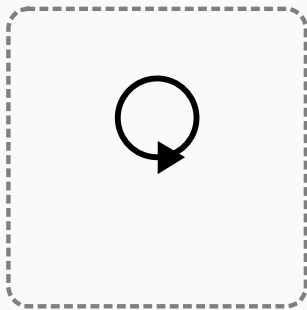
OP ::= FW x | RT x | UP | DOWN | SET state

## Tasks

task : image



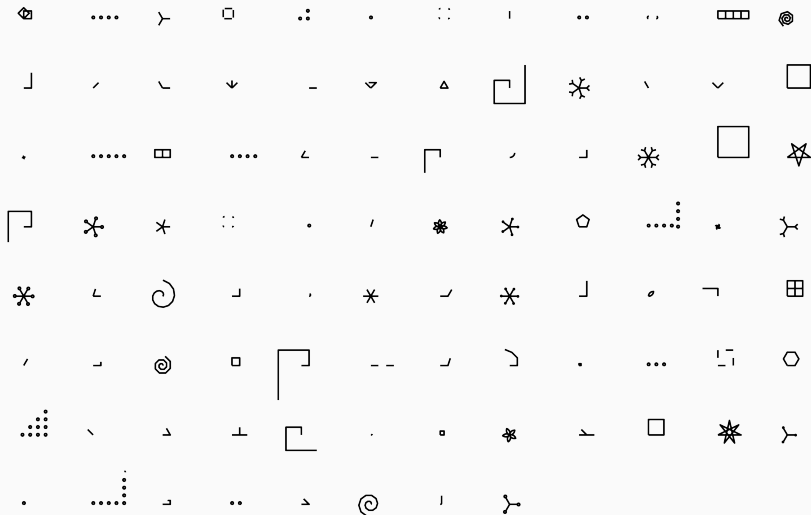
```
for i in range( $\infty$ )  
> FW  $\varepsilon$   
> RT  $\varepsilon$ 
```



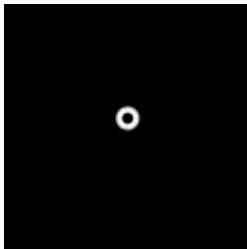
NUM ::= 1 |  $\pi$  |  $\infty$  |  $\varepsilon$  | + | - | \* | /



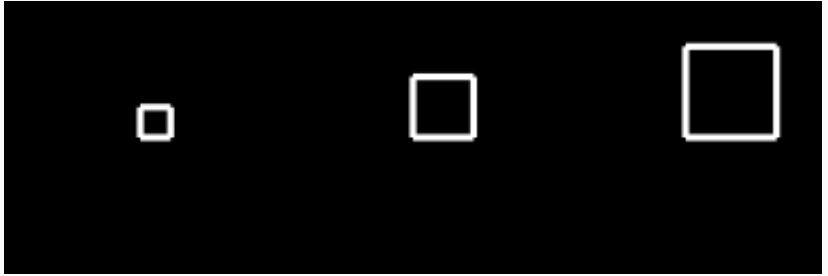
# Turtle graphics — Training tasks



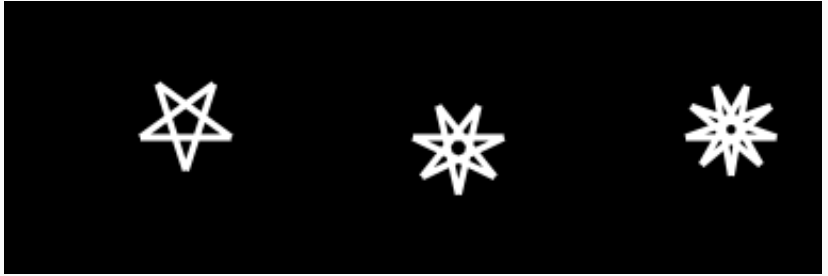
## Turtle graphics — Illustration of learned DSL



## Turtle graphics — Illustration of learned DSL



## Turtle graphics — Illustration of learned DSL



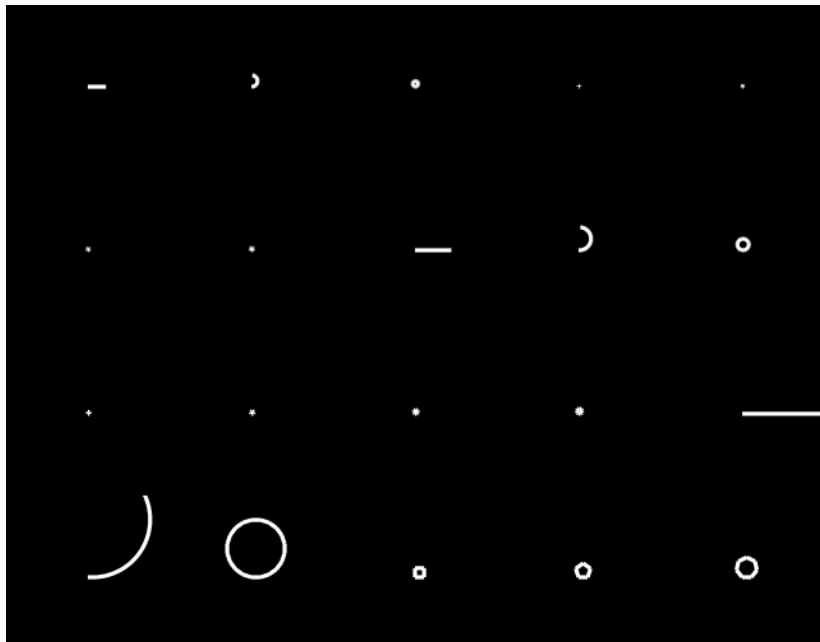
## Turtle graphics — Illustration of learned DSL



## Turtle graphics — Illustration of learned DSL

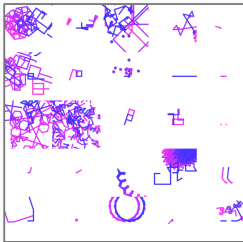
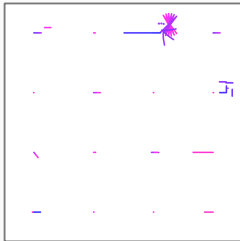


## Turtle graphics — Illustration of learned DSL

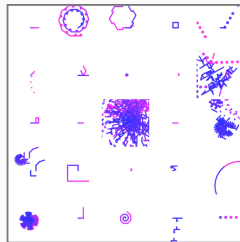


# Turtle graphics — Dreams

Before training



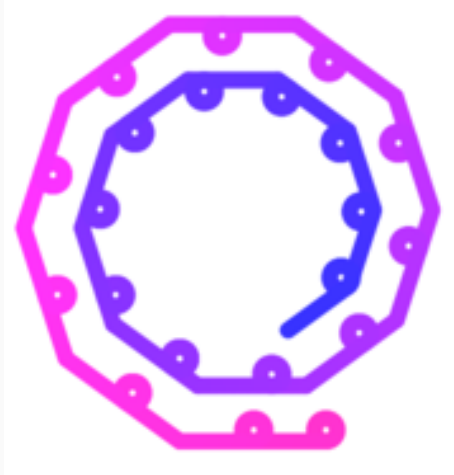
Plateau 5 minutes



Plateau 2 hours



## Turtle graphics — Dreaming from learned generative model



## Turtle graphics — Dreaming from learned generative model



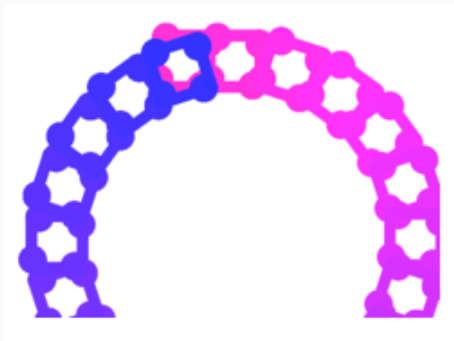
## Turtle graphics — Dreaming from learned generative model



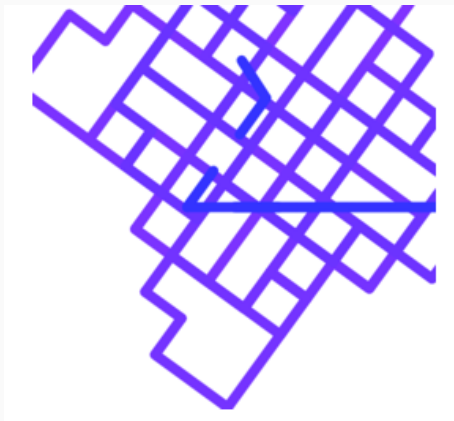
## Turtle graphics — Dreaming from learned generative model



## Turtle graphics — Dreaming from learned generative model



## Turtle graphics — Dreaming from learned generative model



## Turtle graphics — Dreaming from learned generative model



## Turtle graphics — Dreaming from learned generative model





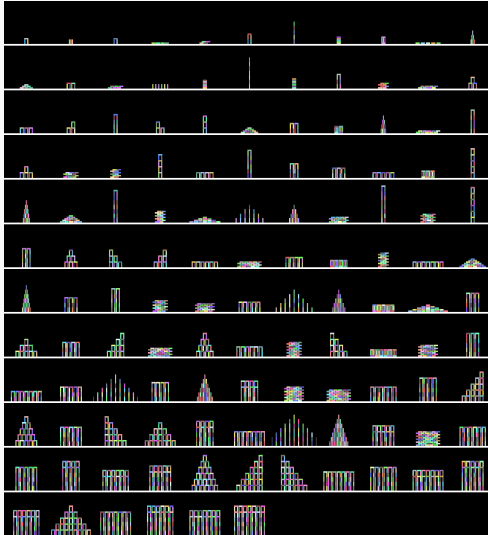
# Tower building in blocks world

Control a hand that puts down blocks  
(turtle: control a pen that puts down ink)



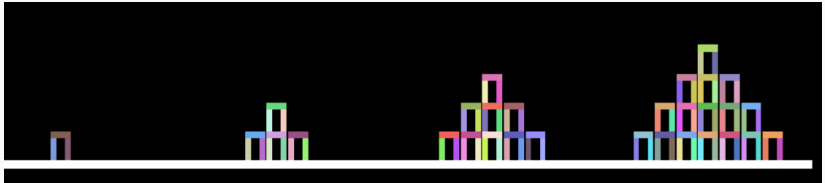
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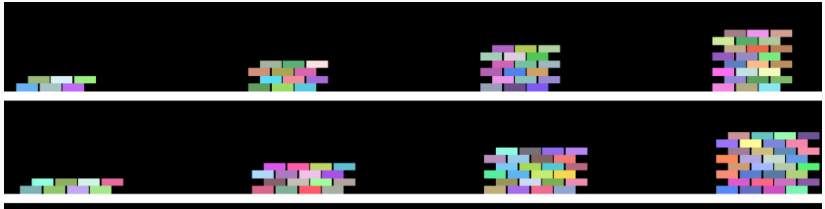
# Tower building in blocks world: Learned concepts

Parametric planning primitives. Example pyramid concept:



# Tower building in blocks world: Learned concepts

Parametric planning primitives. Example brickwall concept:



## More human-like machine intelligence

- Acquiring a domain-specific representation (DSL)
- Learning to use that representation (recognition model)

DreamCoder: an algorithm for jointly realizing these goals

```





f2(p,f,n,x) = (if (p x) nil
                  (cons (f x) (f2 (n x))))

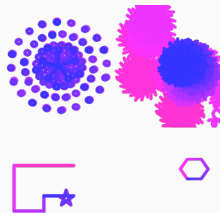
(f2: unfold)
f3(i,l) = (if (= i 0) (car l)
              (f3 (f1 i) (cdr l)))

(f3: index)
f4(f,l,x) = (if (empty? l) x
                (f (car l) (f4 (cdr l))))

(f4: fold)
f5(f,l) = (if (empty? l) nil
              (cons (f (car l)) (f5 (cdr l))))

(f5: map)
    
```

Symbolic Regression	
	
$f(x) = (f_1 \ x)$	$f(x) = (f_6 \ x)$
	
$f(x) = (f_4 \ x)$	$f(x) = (f_3 \ x)$
$f_0(x) = (+ \ x \ \text{real})$ $f_1(x) = (f_0 \ (* \ \text{real} \ x))$ $f_2(x) = (f_1 \ (* \ x \ (f_0 \ x)))$ $f_3(x) = (f_0 \ (* \ x \ (f_2 \ x)))$ $f_4(x) = (f_0 \ (* \ x \ (f_3 \ x)))$ <i>(f4: 4th order polynomial)</i> $f_5(x) = (/ \ \text{real} \ x)$ $f_6(x) = (f_5 \ (f_0 \ x))$ <i>(f6: rational function)</i>	



## More human-like machine intelligence

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DreamCoder: an algorithm for jointly realizing these goals

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f2(p,f,n,x) = (if (p x) nil
                  (cons (f x) (f2 (n x))))

(f2: unfold)

f3(i,l) = (if (= i 0) (car l)
              (f3 (f1 i) (cdr l)))





(f3: index)

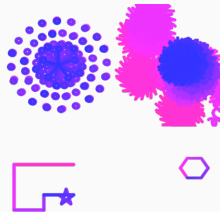
f4(f,l,x) = (if (empty? l) x
                (f (car l) (f4 (cdr l))))

(f4: fold)

f5(f,l) = (if (empty? l) nil
              (cons (f (car l)) (f5 (cdr l))))

(f5: map)
```

Symbolic Regression	
	
$f(x) = (f_1 \ x)$	$f(x) = (f_6 \ x)$
	
$f(x) = (f_4 \ x)$	$f(x) = (f_3 \ x)$
$f_0(x) = (+ \ x \ \text{real})$	
$f_1(x) = (f_0 \ (* \ \text{real} \ x))$	
$f_2(x) = (f_1 \ (* \ x \ (f_0 \ x)))$	
$f_3(x) = (f_0 \ (* \ x \ (f_2 \ x)))$	
$f_4(x) = (f_0 \ (* \ x \ (f_3 \ x)))$	
<i>(f4: 4th order polynomial)</i>	
$f_5(x) = (/ \ \text{real} \ x)$	
$f_6(x) = (f_5 \ (f_0 \ x))$	
<i>(f6: rational function)</i>	



# The End.