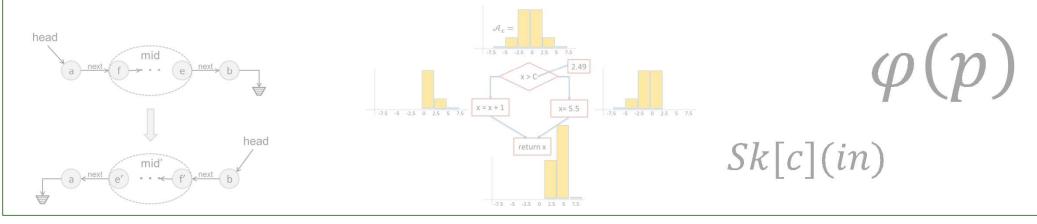
# Module I: Synthesizing Simple Programs

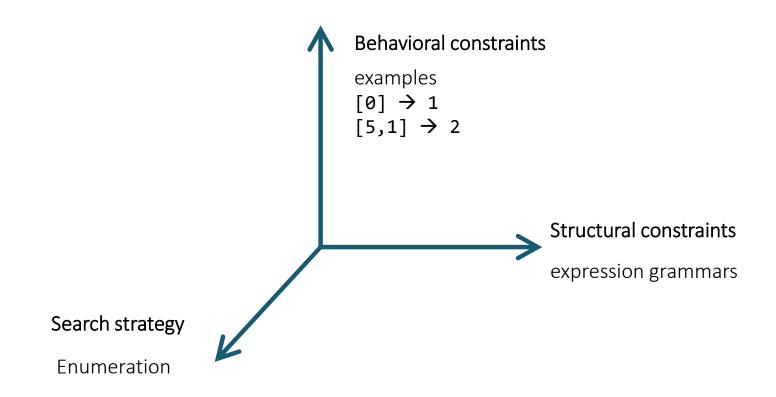


# Lecture 2 Syntax-Guided Synthesis and Enumerative Search

## Logistics

First review and team formation due next week Other questions?

#### Week 1-2



## Today

#### Synthesis from examples

#### Syntax-guided synthesis

- expression grammars as structural constraints
- the SyGuS project

#### Enumerative search

- enumerating all programs generated by a grammar
- bottom-up vs top-down

# Synthesis from examples

## Synthesis from Examples

=

Programming by Example

=

Inductive Programming Inductive Learning

## A little bit of history: inductive learning

MIT/LCS/TR-76

LEARNING STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTIONS FROM EXAMPLES

Patrick H. Winston

September 1970



Patrick Winston

Explored the question of generalizing from a set of observations Became the foundation of machine learning

#### A little bit of history: PBE/PBD

1980s: searching a predefined list of programs

1990s (Tessa Lau): bring inductive learning techniques into PBE

#### Programming by Demonstration: An Inductive Learning Formulation\*

Tessa A. Lau and Daniel S. Weld
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195-2350
October 7, 1998
{tlau, weld}@cs.washington.edu

#### ABSTRACT

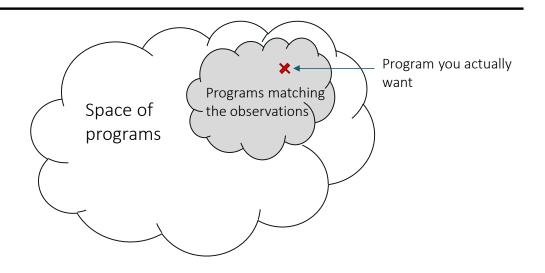
Although Programming by Demonstration (PBD) has

 Applications that support macros allow users to record a fixed sequence of actions and later replay this



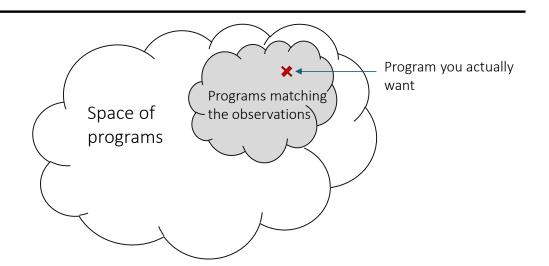
Tessa Lau

#### Key issues in inductive learning



- (1) How do you find a program that matches the observations?
- (2) How do you know it is the program you are looking for?

#### Key issues in inductive learning

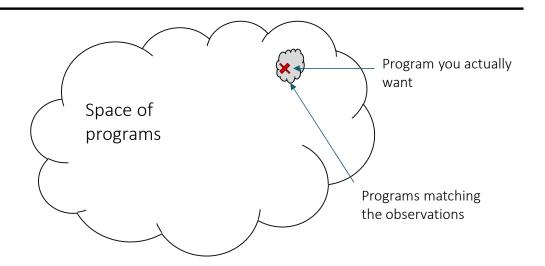


#### Traditional ML:

- Fix the space so that (1) is easy
- (2) becomes the main challenge

- (1) How do you find a program that matches the observations?
- (2) How do you know it is the program you are looking for?

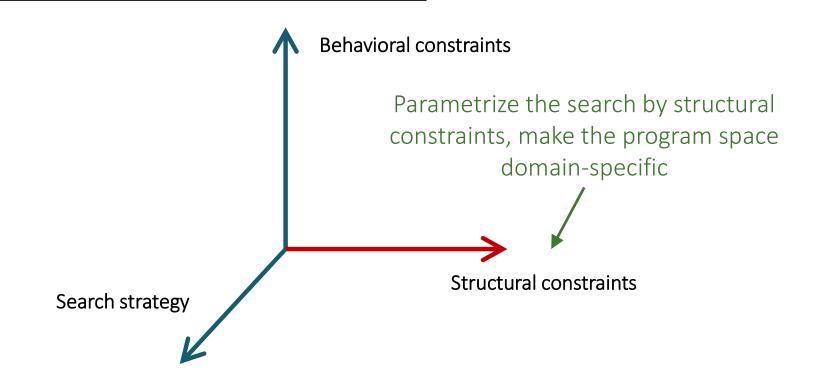
### The synthesis approach



#### Program synthesis:

- Customize the space so that (2) becomes easier
- (1) is now the main challenge
- (1) How do you find a program that matches the observations?
- (2) How do you know it is the program you are looking for?

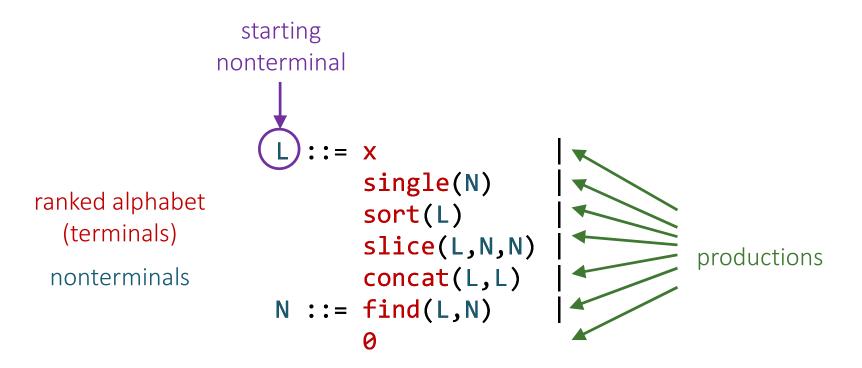
## Key idea



## Syntax-Guided Synthesis

## Example

## Regular tree grammars (RTGs)



## Regular tree grammars (CFGs)

```
nonterminals rules (productions) alphabet starting nonterminal \langle \Sigma, N, R, S \rangle
```

```
Terms: \mathbf{t} \in T_{\Sigma}(N) = all terms made from N \cup \Sigma Rules are of the form: A \to \sigma(A_1, ..., A_n) Derives in one step: \mathcal{C}[A] \to \mathcal{C}[t] if (A \to t) \in R (Incomplete) programs: \{t \in T_{\Sigma}(N) | A \to^* t\} Ground programs: \{t \in T_{\Sigma}|A \to^* t\} = programs without holes, complete programs Whole programs: \{t \in T_{\Sigma}(N) | S \to^* t\} = roughly, programs of the right type
```

```
concat(L,0)
L \rightarrow concat(L,L)
concat(L,L) -> concat(x,L)
find(concat(L,L),N)
find(concat(x,x),0)

sort(concat(L,L))
```

#### RTGs as structural constraints

```
Space of programs
= the language of an RTG
= all ground, whole programs
```

```
L::= X
    single(N)
    sort(L)
    slice(L,N,N)
    concat(L,L)

N ::= find(L,N)
    0

x sort(x) concat(x, x) slice(x,0,0)
    ...

concat(x, x)
    slice(x,0,find(x,0))
    ...

concat(sort(slice(x,0,find(x,0))), single(0))
```

## How big is the space?

$$E := x \mid f(E,E)$$

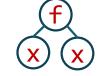
depth <= 0



$$N(0) = 1$$

depth <= 1



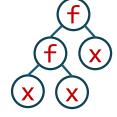


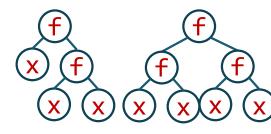
$$N(1) = 2$$

depth <= 2









$$N(2) = 5$$

$$N(d) = 1 + N(d - 1)^2$$

### How big is the space?

$$E ::= x \mid f(E,E)$$

$$N(d) = 1 + N(d - 1)^2$$
  $N(d) \sim c^{2^d}$   $(c > 1)$ 

N(1) = 1

N(2) = 2

N(3) = 5

N(4) = 26

N(5) = 677

N(6) = 458330

N(7) = 210066388901

N(8) = 44127887745906175987802

N(9) = 1947270476915296449559703445493848930452791205

#### How big is the space?

E::= 
$$x_1 \mid ... \mid x_k \mid$$
  
 $f_1(E,E) \mid ... \mid f_m(E,E)$ 

$$N(0) = k$$
  
 $N(d) = k + m * N(d - 1)^{2}$ 

```
N(1) = 3 k = m = 3
```

N(2) = 30

N(3) = 2703

N(4) = 21918630

N(5) = 1441279023230703

N(6) = 6231855668414547953818685622630

N(7) = 116508075215851596766492219468227024724121520304443212304350703

#### Syntactic sugar

Instead of this:

We will often write this:

- allow custom syntax for terminal symbols
- not an RTG strictly speaking, but you know what we mean...

#### Syntactic sugar

[Alur et al. 2013]

https://sygus.org/

Goal: Unify different syntax-guided approaches

Collection of synthesis benchmarks + yearly competition

- 6 competitions since 2013
- consider writing a SyGuS solver for your project!

Common input format + supporting tools

- parser, baseline synthesizers
- Our book has some code I can provide with this as well

## SyGuS problems

SyGuS problem = < theory, spec, grammar >

A "library" of types and function symbols

**Example:** Linear Integer Arithmetic (LIA)

True, False 0,1,2,... ∧, ∨, ¬, +, ≤, ite

RTG with terminals in the theory (+ input variables)

**Example:** Conditional LIA expressions w/o sums

E ::=  $x \mid \text{ite } C \mid E \mid C \mid \neg C$ C ::=  $E \leq E \mid C \mid A \mid C \mid \neg C$ 

## SyGuS problems

SyGuS problem = < theory, spec, grammar >



A first-order logic formula over the theory

#### Examples:

$$f(0, 1) = 1 \wedge$$

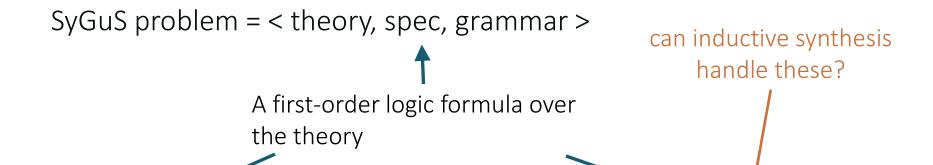
$$f(1, 0) = 1 \wedge$$

$$f(1, 1) = 1 \wedge$$

$$f(2, 0) = 2$$

## SyGuS demo

## SyGuS problems



#### Examples:

$$f(0, 1) = 1 \land f(1, 0) = 1 \land f(1, 1) = 1 \land f(2, 0) = 2$$

Formula with free variables:

$$x \le f(x, y) \land$$
  
 $y \le f(x, y) \land$   
 $(f(x, y) = x \lor f(x, y) = y)$ 

#### The Zendo game



The teacher makes up a secret rule

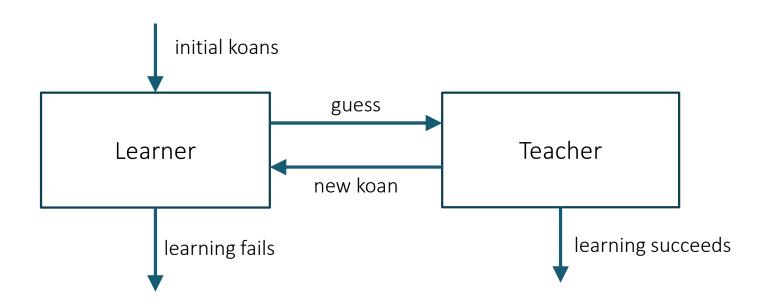
• e.g. all pieces must be grounded

The teacher builds two koans (a positive and a negative)

A student can try to guess the rule

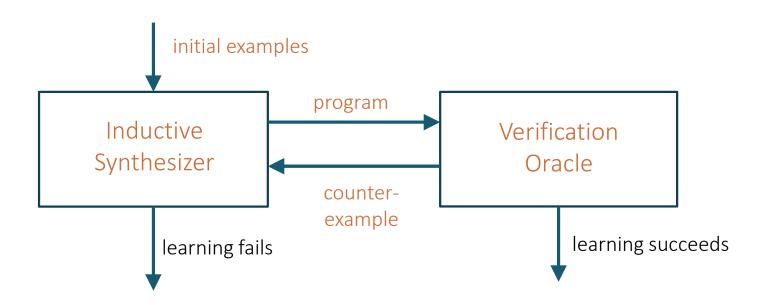
- if they are right, they win
- otherwise, the teacher builds a koan on which the two rules disagree

## The Zendo game

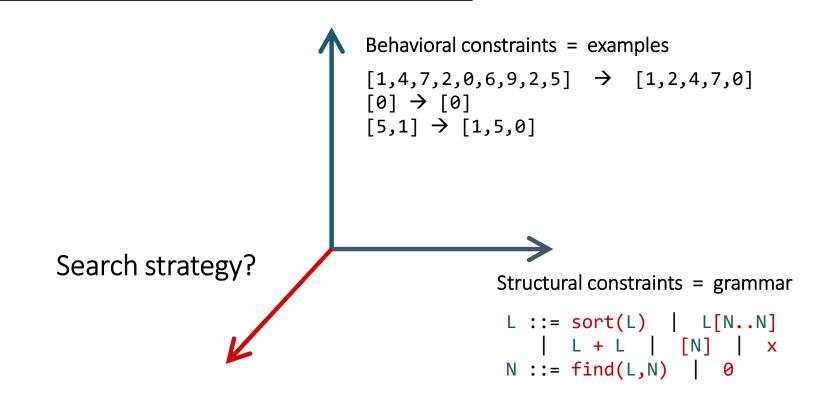


# Counter-example guided inductive synthesis (CEGIS)

The Zendo of program synthesis



### The problem statement



## Enumerative search

#### **Enumerative search**

**=** 

Explicit / Exhaustive Search

Idea: Sample programs from the grammar one by one and test them on the examples

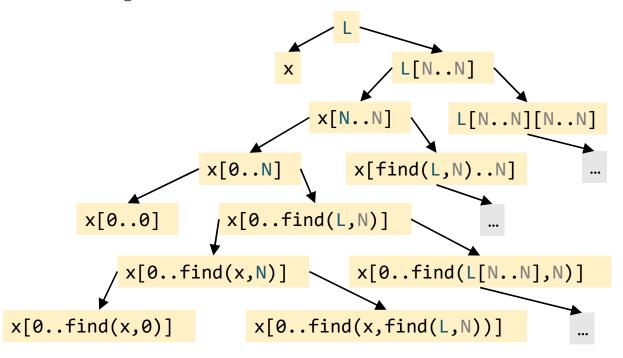
Challenge: How do we systematically enumerate all programs?

top-down vs bottom-up

#### Top-down enumeration: search space

#### Search space is a tree where

- nodes are incomplete programs
- edges are left-most "rewrites to"



```
L ::= L[N..N] |

X
N ::= find(L,N) |
0

[[1,4,0,6] → [1,4]]
```

#### Top-down enumeration = traversing the tree

#### Search tree can be traversed:

- depth-first (for fixed max depth)
- breadth-first
- best-first

#### General algorithm:

- Maintain a worklist of incomplete programs
- Initialize with the start non-terminal
- Expand left-most non-terminal using all productions

```
L ::= L[N..N] |

X
N ::= find(L,N) |
0

[[1,4,0,6] → [1,4]]
```

#### Top-down: algorithm

```
nonterminals rules (productions)
                         starting nonterminal
    alphabet
top-down(\langle \Sigma, N, R, S \rangle, [i \rightarrow o]):
  w1 := [S]
                                  can be smart about what to dequeue
  while (wl != []):
                                                                    L ::= L[N..N]
    p := wl.dequeue()
    if (ground(p) \land p([i]) = [o]):
                                                                   N ::= find(L,N)
       return p
    wl.enqueue(unroll(p))
                                                                   [[1,4,0,6] \rightarrow [1,4]]
                               depth- or breadth-first
unroll(p):
                          depending on where you enqueue
  wl' := []
  A := left-most non-term in p
  forall (A \rightarrow rhs) in R:
    p' = p[A \rightarrow rhs]
    if !exceeds_bound(p'): wl' += p'
  return wl';
                                                    can impose bounds on depth/size
```

### Top-down: example (depth-first)

#### Worklist w1

```
iter 0: L
iter 1: x L[N..N]
iter 2: L[N..N]
iter 3: x[N..N] L[N..N][N..N]
iter 4: x[0..N] x[find(L,N)..N] L[N..N][N..N]
iter 5: x[0..0] x[0.. find(L,N)] x[find(L,N)..N] ...
iter 6: x[0.. find(L,N)] x[find(L,N)..N] ...
iter 7: x[0.. find(x,N)] x[0.. find(L[N..N],N)] ...
iter 8: x[0.. find(x,0)] x[0.. find(x,find(L,N))] ...
iter 9:
```

```
L ::= L[N..N]

x

N ::= find(L,N)

0

[[1,4,0,6] → [1,4]]
```

#### **Bottom-up enumeration**

The dynamic programming approach

Maintain a bank of ground programs

Combine programs in the bank into larger programs using productions

```
L ::= sort(L)

L[N..N]

L + L

[N]

X

N ::= find(L,N)

0

[[1,4,0,6] → [1,4]]
```

## Bottom-up: algorithm (take 1)

```
nonterminals rules (productions)
                             starting nonterminal
bottom-up (\langle \Sigma, N, R, S \rangle, [i \rightarrow o]):
  bank := {}
                                                                      L ::= sort(L)
  for d in [0..]:
                                                                              L[N..N]
     forall (A \rightarrow rhs) in R:
                                                                               L + L
        forall p in new-terms(A→rhs, d, bank):
                                                                               N
          if (A = S \land p([i]) = [o]):
             return p
                                                                      N ::= find(L,N)
           bank += p;
new-terms(A \rightarrow \sigma(A_1...A_n), d, bank):
                                                                    [[1,4,0,6] \rightarrow [1,4]]
 if (d = 0 \land n = 0) yield \sigma
 else forall \langle p_1,...,p_n \rangle in bank<sup>n</sup>:
            if A_i \rightarrow p_i: yield \sigma(p_1,...,p_n)
```

inefficient, better index bank by non-terminal!

### Bottom-up: algorithm (take 2)

```
bottom-up (\langle \Sigma, N, R, S \rangle, [i \rightarrow o]):
  bank[A] := {} forall A
                                                                    L ::= sort(L)
  for d in [0..]:
                                                                           L[N..N]
     forall (A \rightarrow rhs) in R:
                                                                            L + L
        forall p in new-terms(A→rhs, d, bank):
                                                                            N
          if (A = S \land p([i]) = [o]):
             return p
                                                                    N ::= find(L,N)
          bank += p;
new-terms(A \rightarrow \sigma(A_1...A_n), d, bank):
                                                                  [[1,4,0,6] \rightarrow [1,4]]
 if (d = 0 \land n = 0) yield \sigma
 else forall \langle p_1,...,p_n \rangle in bank[A_1] \times ... \times bank[A_n]:
                 yield \sigma(p_1,...,p_n)
```

inefficient, generating same terms again and again!
better index bank by depth

#### **Bottom-up enumeration**

```
bottom-up (\langle \Sigma, N, R, S \rangle, [i \rightarrow o]):
  bank[A,d] := \{\} forall A, d
                                                                      L ::= sort(L)
  for d in [0..]:
                                                                             L[N..N]
     forall (A \rightarrow rhs) in R:
                                                                              L + L
        forall p in new-terms(A→rhs, d, bank):
                                                                               \lceil \mathsf{N} \rceil
           if (A = S \land p([i]) = [o]):
             return p
                                                                               X
                                                                      N ::= find(L,N)
           bank[A,d] += p;
new-terms(A \rightarrow \sigma(A_1...A_n), d, bank):
                                                                    [[1,4,0,6] \rightarrow [1,4]]
 if (d = 0 \land n = 0) yield \sigma
 else forall \{d_1,...,d_n\} in [0...d-1]^n s.t. \max(d_1,...,d_n) = d-1:
         forall \langle p_1, ..., p_n \rangle in bank [A_1, d_1] \times ... \times bank [A_n, d_n]:
            yield \sigma(p_1,...,p_n)
```

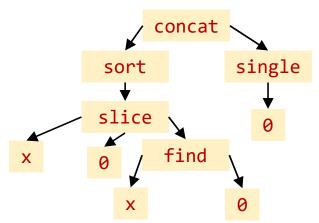
#### Bottom-up: example

```
Program bank
          x 0
d=0:
          sort(x) x + x x[0..0] [0]
                                                           L ::= sort(L)
d = 1:
          find(x,0)
                                                                  L[N..N]
                                                                  [N]
d = 2:
          sort(sort(x)) sort(x[0..0]) sort(x + x)
          sort([0]) x + (x + x) x + [0] sort(x) + x
                                                           N ::= find(L,N)
          x[0..0] + x (x + x) + x [0] + x x + x[0..0]
          x + sort(x) \times [0...find(x,0)]
                                                          [[1,4,0,6] \rightarrow [1,4]]
```

### Bottom-up: discussion

What are some optimizations that come to mind? Instead of by depth, we can enumerate by size

• Why would we want that?



depth = 4, size = 10 programs of size <= 10: 8667 programs of depth <= 4: >1M

Which parts of the algo would we need to change?

#### Bottom-up vs top-down

#### Top-down

#### Bottom-up

Smaller to larger depth

Has to explore between 3\*10<sup>9</sup> and 10<sup>23</sup> programs to find sort(x[0..find(x, 0)]) + [0] (depth 6)

## Candidates are whole but might not be ground

- Cannot always run on inputs
- Can always relate to outputs (?)

Candidates are ground but might not be whole

- Can always run on inputs
- Cannot always relate to outputs

#### How to make it scale

#### Prune

Discard useless subprograms







\* 
$$N^2$$
 m \*  $(N - 1)^2$ 

#### **Prioritize**

Explore more promising candidates first