

Chamelean

Property-Based Testing for Lean via Metaprogramming

Ernest Ng (advised by Cody Roux & Mike Hicks)

In collaboration with



Property-Based Testing

1. Write *properties*

Spec for Binary Search Trees (BSTs):

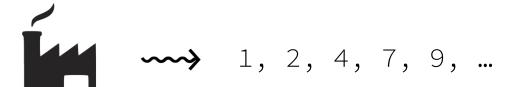
```
∀ x tree,
isBST tree

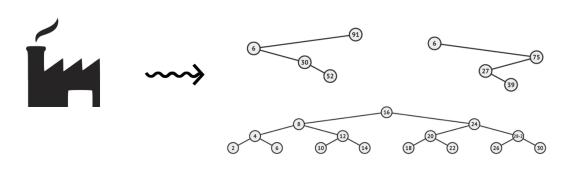
⇒ isBST (insert x tree)
```



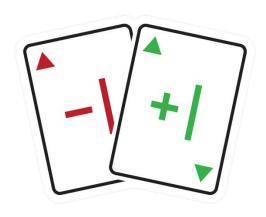
Property-Based Testing (PBT)

2. Generate *random inputs*





3. Test if random inputs satisfy property





Why should proof assistants support PBT?

Writing proofs is hard & time-consuming

⇒ Perform PBT before embarking on proofs!

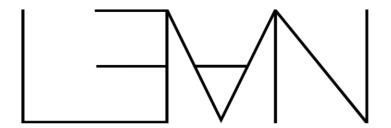


Every major proof assistant has a PBT framework











Problem: writing PBT generators is hard

Cedar team: writing good generators took 6 months (estimated)



Developers: writing generators is "tedious" & "high-effort"

Goldstein et al. (ICSE '24)



The Constrained Random Generation Problem

Given some proposition P, automatically generate random values satisfying P



The Constrained Random Generation Problem

Given some <u>inductive relation</u> P, automatically generate random values satisfying P



Inductive Relations

isBST lo hi tree

"is tree a BST containing values between lo & hi?"

```
inductive isBST : Nat → Nat → Tree → Prop where
```

•••



Inductive Relations

isBST lo hi tree

"is tree a BST containing values between lo & hi?"

```
inductive isBST : Nat → Nat → Tree → Prop where
| BSTLeaf : ∀ lo hi, isBST lo hi Leaf...
```



Inductive Relations

isBST lo hi tree

"is tree a BST containing values between lo & hi?"

```
inductive isBST : Nat → Nat → Tree → Prop where
| BSTLeaf : ∀ lo hi, isBST lo hi Leaf
| BSTNode : ∀ lo hi x l r,
    lo < x < hi →
    isBST lo x l →
    isBST x hi r →
    isBST lo hi (Node x l r)</pre>
```



isBST lo hi tree

"is tree a BST containing values between lo & hi?"

Function

Inductive Relation

```
def isBST :
  Nat → Nat → Tree → Bool :=
...
```

- ✓ Can be executed!
- X Can't encode all properties
- X Hard to reason inductively

```
inductive isBST :
  Nat → Nat → Tree → Prop where
```

- √ Facilitates inductive reasoning!
- ✓ Easy to model properties!
- X No computational content (Chamelean addresses this issue!)



Chamelean

1. User specifies a Lean inductive relation

```
1. Oser specifies a Leari inductive relation
```

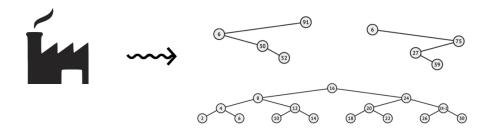
```
inductive isBST :
```

Nat → Nat → Tree → Prop where

BSTLeaf : ...

BSTNode: ...

2. Chamelean derives a generator of random data satisfying the relation



(a generator of Trees satisfying isBST)

#derive_generator (fun tree ⇒ isBST lo hi tree)



```
def genBST (lo : Nat) (hi : Nat) (fuel : Nat) : Gen Tree :=
...
```



```
def genBST (lo : Nat) (hi : Nat) (fuel : Nat) : Gen Tree :=
  match fuel with
  | zero ⇒ ...
  | succ fuel' ⇒ ...
  pattern-match on fuel parameter
```



(needed to make generators

structurally drecreasing)

```
inductive isBST (lo : Nat) (hi : Nat) (t : Tree) : Prop where
| BSTLeaf : ∀ lo hi, isBST lo hi Leaf
```





```
def genBST (lo : Nat) (hi : Nat) (fuel : Nat) : Gen Tree :=
        match fuel with
        | zero ⇒ return Leaf
        | succ fuel' ⇒
         backtrack [
           (1, return Leaf), ← input t unified with Leaf
inductive isBST (lo: Nat) (hi: Nat) (t: Tree): Prop where
 | BSTLeaf : ∀ lo hi, isBST lo hi Leaf
```



```
def genBST (lo : Nat) (hi : Nat) (fuel : Nat) : Gen Tree :=
  match fuel with
  zero \implies ...
   succ fuel' ⇒
    backtrack [
      (1, return Leaf),
      (succ fuel', do (Recursive case)
                                                                  BSTNode : ∀ lo hi x l r,
                                                                    lo < x < hi \rightarrow
                                                                    isBST lo x l \rightarrow
                                                                    isBST x hi r \rightarrow
                                                                    isBST lo hi (Node x l r)
```



```
def genBST (lo : Nat) (hi : Nat) (fuel : Nat) : Gen Tree :=
  match fuel with
   zero \Rightarrow ...
   succ fuel' ⇒
    backtrack [
      (1, return Leaf),
      (succ fuel', do
                                                                     BSTNode : ∀ lo hi x l r,
          let x \leftarrow genSuchThat (fun x \Rightarrow lo < x < hi)
                                                                       lo < x < hi \rightarrow
       Type class method for the derived generator
             associated with lo < x < hi
```



```
def genBST (lo : Nat) (hi : Nat) (fuel : Nat) : Gen Tree :=
  match fuel with
   zero \Rightarrow ...
   succ fuel' ⇒
    backtrack [
      (1, return Leaf),
       (succ fuel', do
                                                                      BSTNode : ∀ lo hi x l r,
          let x \leftarrow genSuchThat (fun x \Rightarrow lo < x < hi)
                                                                         lo < x < hi \rightarrow
          let l ← genBST lo x fuel'
                                                                         isBST lo x l \rightarrow
            Recursively generate left subtree 1
```



```
def genBST (lo : Nat) (hi : Nat) (fuel : Nat) : Gen Tree :=
  match fuel with
   zero \Rightarrow ...
   succ fuel' ⇒
    backtrack [
      (1, return Leaf),
       (succ fuel', do
                                                                       BSTNode : ∀ lo hi x l r,
          let x \leftarrow genSuchThat (fun x \Rightarrow lo < x < hi)
                                                                         lo < x < hi \rightarrow
          let l ← genBST lo x fuel'
                                                                         isBST lo x l \rightarrow
          let r ← genBST x hi fuel'
                                                                         isBST x hi r \rightarrow
           Recursively generate right subtree r
```



```
def genBST (lo : Nat) (hi : Nat) (fuel : Nat) : Gen Tree :=
  match fuel with
   zero \implies ...
    succ fuel' ⇒
    backtrack [
      (1, return Leaf),
      (succ fuel', do
                                                                     BSTNode : ∀ lo hi x l r,
          let x \leftarrow genSuchThat (fun x \Rightarrow lo < x < hi)
                                                                       lo < x < hi \rightarrow
          let l ← genBST lo x fuel'
                                                                       isBST lo x l \rightarrow
          let r ← genBST x hi fuel'
                                                                       isBST x hi r \rightarrow
          return (Node x l r))
                                                                       isBST lo hi (Node x l r)
                  Return a Node
```



```
inductive isBST
                                                     (lo : Nat)
                                                     (hi : Nat)
                                                     (t: Tree) : Prop where
return (Node x l r)
                                                       isBST lo hi (Node x l r)
                          input t unified with (Node x l r)
```

Some Generators are Better Than Others

A *naïve* BST generator

let x ← arbitrary ← Generate some arbitrary (unconstrained) x



Some Generators are Better Than Others

A *naïve* BST generator



Generator Schedules

A *smarter* BST generator

- Prioritize constrained generation (genSuchThat) over checks
- Rewrite generator based on variable dependencies (i.e. generate x before 1 & r)

Testing Theorems, Fully Automatically

ANONYMOUS AUTHOR(S)

(Elazar-Mittelman et al., submitted to POPL '26)



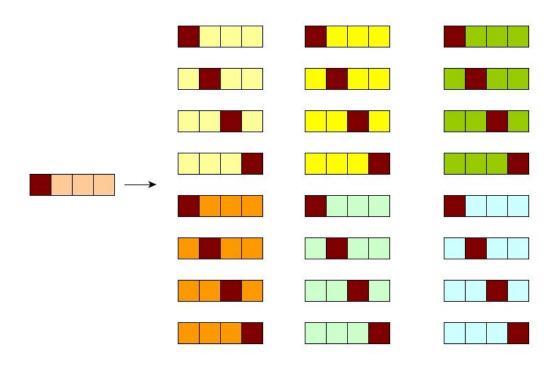
Chamelean also derives Checkers

inductive Permutation

(l': List Nat) : Prop

(l : List Nat)

Chamelean derives a function which *checks* if 1, 1' are permutations of each other





Chamelean also derives Enumerators

```
inductive Permutation : List Nat \rightarrow List Nat \rightarrow Prop where  | \text{ Transitivity : } \forall \ l_1 \ l_2 \ l_3,  Permutation l_1 \ l_2 \rightarrow Permutation l_2 \ l_3 \rightarrow Permutation l_1 \ l_3
```

l₂ doesn't appear in the conclusion of Transitivity

 \Rightarrow Chamelean *enumerates* l_2 such that l_2 is also a valid Permutation



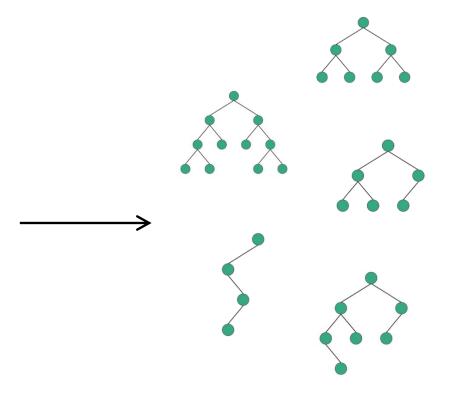
Deriving **Unconstrained Generators** for Inductive Types

inductive Tree

Leaf : Tree

Node : Nat → Tree → Tree → Tree

deriving Arbitrary, Enum





Demo



```
/-- Datatype for binary trees -/
inductive Tree where
  | Leaf : Tree
  | Node : Nat → Tree → Tree → Tree
/-- `Between lo x hi` means `lo < x < hi` -/
inductive Between : Nat \rightarrow Nat \rightarrow Prop where
 BetweenN : \forall n m,
  n \leq m \rightarrow
  Between n (.succ n) (.succ (.succ m))
  BetweenS : ∀ n m o,
  Between n m o \rightarrow Between n (.succ m) (.succ o)
#derive_generator (fun (x : Nat) \Rightarrow Between lo x hi)
/-- `BST lo hi t` describes whether a tree `t` is a BST that
    contains values strictly within `lo` and `hi` -/
inductive BST : Nat → Nat → Tree → Prop where
  | BSTLeaf: ∀ lo hi, BST lo hi .Leaf
    BSTNode: ∀ lo hi x l r,
    Between lo x hi →
    BST lo x l \rightarrow
    BST x hi r \rightarrow
    BST lo hi (.Node x l r)
#derive_generator (fun (t : Tree) ⇒ BST lo hi t)
```

Derives a generator for **x** satisfying **lo < x < hi**

Derives a generator for Trees satisfying BST

Code for derived generator automatically displayed in VS Code side panel

```
Plausible > Chamelean > ≡ FinalDemo.lean > ...
                                                                                    ▼ FinalDemo.lean:29:49
      /-- Datatype for binary trees -/
                                                                                    ▼ Suggestions
       inductive Tree where
                                                                                     Try this generator: instance : ArbitrarySizedSuchThat Tree (fun t 1 ⇒ BST lo_1 hi_1 t_1) where
         | Leaf : Tree
                                                                                       arbitrarySizedST :=
         | Node : Nat → Tree → Tree → Tree
                                                                                         let rec aux arb (initSize : Nat) (size : Nat) (lo_1 : Nat) (hi_1 : Nat) : OptionT Plausible.Gen Tree
  8
                                                                                           match size with
       /-- `Between lo x hi` means `lo < x < hi` -/
                                                                                           | Nat.zero ⇒ OptionTGen.backtrack [(1, return Tree.Leaf)]
       inductive Between : Nat \rightarrow Nat \rightarrow Prop where
                                                                                           | Nat.succ size' ⇒
       | BetweenN : ∀ n m,
                                                                                             OptionTGen.backtrack
        n \leq m \rightarrow
                                                                                               [(1, return Tree.Leaf),
         Between n (.succ n) (.succ (.succ m))
 13
                                                                                                 (Nat.succ size', do
 14
        BetweenS : ∀ n m o,
                                                                                                   let x \leftarrow ArbitrarySizedSuchThat.arbitrarySizedST (fun <math>x \Rightarrow Between lo_1 x hi_1) initSize;
         Between n m o → Between n (.succ m) (.succ o)
 15
 16
                                                                                                     let l ← aux_arb initSize size' lo_1 x;
      \#derive\_generator (fun (x : Nat) \Rightarrow Between lo x hi)
 17
 18
                                                                                                       let r ← aux_arb initSize size' x hi_1;
       /-- `BST lo hi t` describes whether a tree `t` is a BST that
 19
                                                                                                       return Tree.Node x l r)]
          contains values strictly within `lo` and `hi` -/
 20
                                                                                         fun size ⇒ aux_arb size size lo_1 hi_1
 21
       inductive BST : Nat → Nat → Tree → Prop where
         | BSTLeaf: ∀ lo hi, BST lo hi .Leaf
                                                                                    ► Messages (1)
 22
 23
         | BSTNode: ∀ lo hi x l r,
                                                                                   ► All Messages (2)
          Between lo x hi →
 24
 25
           BST lo x l \rightarrow
           BST x hi r \rightarrow
 26
           BST lo hi (.Node x l r)
 27
 28
      #derive_generator (fun (t : Tree) \Rightarrow BST lo hi t)
 29
 30
```

Clicking on suggested code automatically inserts the generator into your Lean file

```
/-- `BST lo hi t` describes whether a tree `t` is a BST that
    contains values strictly within `lo` and `hi` -/
inductive BST : Nat → Nat → Tree → Prop where
   BSTLeaf: ∀ lo hi, BST lo hi .Leaf
   BSTNode: ∀ lo hi x l r,
   Between lo x hi →
   BST lo x l \rightarrow
   BST x hi r \rightarrow
   BST lo hi (.Node x l r)
instance {lo_1 hi_1} : ArbitrarySizedSuchThat Tree (fun t_1 ⇒ BST lo_1 hi_1 t_1) where
 arbitrarySizedST :=
    let rec aux_arb (initSize : Nat) (size : Nat) (lo_1 : Nat) (hi_1 : Nat) : OptionT Plausible.Gen Tree :=
     match size with
      | Nat.zero ⇒ OptionTGen.backtrack [(1, return Tree.Leaf)]
      | Nat.succ size' ⇒
        OptionTGen.backtrack
          [(1, return Tree.Leaf),
            (Nat.succ size', do
              let x \leftarrow ArbitrarySizedSuchThat.arbitrarySizedST (fun <math>x \Rightarrow Between lo_1 x hi_1) initSize;
              do
                let l ← aux arb initSize size' lo 1 x;
                  let r ← aux arb initSize size' x hi 1;
                  return Tree.Node x l r)]
    fun size ⇒ aux_arb size size lo_1 hi_1
```

Inserted automatically

Testing a property using Chamelean

```
\forall x lo hi tree,
 Property
                        BST lo hi tree \Lambda lo \langle x \langle hi \rangle
                        ⇒ BST lo hi (insert x tree)
                     let x \leftarrow chooseNat lo hi
                     let t ← genSuchThat
                                                                             Derived
Test harness
                               (fun tree \Rightarrow BST lo hi tree)
                                                                            generator
(pseudocode)
                     let t' := insert x t
                                                                            Derived
                     check (BST lo hi t')
                                                                             checker
                                                                         (obtained the same
                                                                         way as generators)
```

Testing a property using Chamelean

```
▼ Messages (1)
/-- Inserts an element into a tree, respecting the BST invariants -/
                                                                              ▼ FinalDemo.lean:82:0
def insert (x : Nat) (t : Tree) : Tree :=
  match t with
                                                                              Chamelean: finished 10000 tests, 10000 passed
  | .Leaf ⇒ .Node x .Leaf .Leaf
                                                                            ▶ All Messages (5)
  | .Node y l r \Rightarrow
   if x < y then
      .Node y (insert x l) r
    else if x > y then
      .Node y l (insert x r)
    else t
/-- Test harness for testing the property
    \forall (x : Nat) (t : Tree), BST 0 10 t \Rightarrow BST 0 10 (insert x t)
    for `numTrials` iterations.
   (Details omitted) -/
def runTests (numTrials : Nat) : IO Unit := ...
-- Uncomment this to run the aforementioned test harness
#eval runTests (numTrials := 10000)
```

Falsifying a property using Chamelean

Buggy BST insertion function



```
/-- Buggy insertion function: ignores the input tree and
| returns a two-node tree where both values are `x` -/
def buggyInsert (x : Nat) (_ : Tree) : Tree :=
| .Node x (.Node x .Leaf .Leaf) .Leaf

/-- Test harness for testing the property
| `∀ (x : Nat) (t : Tree), BST 0 10 t → BST 0 10 (insert x t)`
| for `numTrials` iterations.

(Details omitted) -/
def runTests (numTrials : Nat) : IO Unit := ...

-- Uncomment this to run the aforementioned test harness
#eval runTests (numTrials := 10000)
```

```
▼ Messages (1)

▼ FinalDemo.lean:84:0

Property falsified!
t = Tree.Node 9 (Tree.Node 8 (Tree.Node 7 (Tree.Node 2 (Tree.Leaf))
(Tree.Leaf)) (Tree.Leaf)) (Tree.Leaf)
x = 4
t' = Tree.Node 4 (Tree.Node 4 (Tree.Leaf)) (Tree.Leaf)

► All Messages (5)

II
```

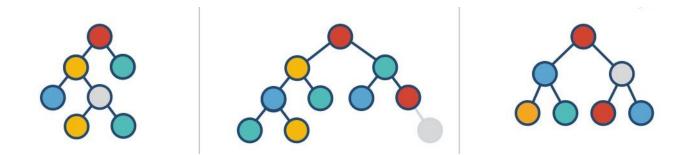
Examples

Г⊢е: τ

[^]*?@[^]*?\.[^]*

Well-typed λ-calculus terms

Strings that match regular expressions



Binary trees (BSTs, balanced, complete, ...)



Generating Simply-Typed λ-Calculus Terms

This is an area of active research:

Pałka et al. AST '11 Fetscher et al. ESOP '15 Claessen et al. JFP '15 Midtgaard et al. ICFP '17 Frank et al. POPL '24

Chamelean automatically derives a generator for well-typed terms!

```
\lambda \times : \text{Nat. 1}

\lambda \times : \text{Nat. } ((3 + x) + 4)

((\lambda \times : \text{Nat. } x) \cdot 0) + ((\lambda \times : \text{Nat. } x + 4) \cdot 1)
```



Chamelean implements ideas pioneered in Rocq's QuickChick PBT framework

Testing Theorems, Fully Automatically

ANONYMOUS AUTHOR(S)

Submitted to POPL '26



Computing Correctly with Inductive Relations

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Leonidas Lampropoulos leonidas@umd.edu University of Maryland, College Park University of Maryland, College Park USA

PLDI '22

Generating Good Generators for Inductive Relations

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POPL '18

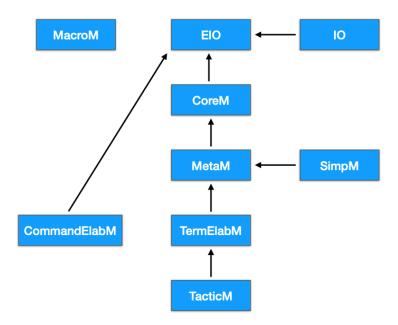




Building Chamelean via Metaprogamming

- Before internship: Chamelean prototype produced Lean code via pretty-printed strings
- My job: Implement QuickChick's algorithms using Lean metaprogramming idioms

Lean Monad Zoo



My prior research: developing PBT tools using OCaml metaprogramming

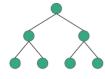
MICA: Automated Differential Testing for OCaml Modules

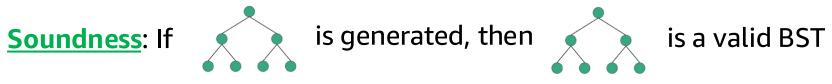
ERNEST NG*, University of Pennsylvania and Cornell University, USA HARRISON GOLDSTEIN*, University of Pennsylvania and University of Maryland, USA BENJAMIN C. PIERCE, University of Pennsylvania, USA

OCaml Workshop '24



Automatically produce correctness proofs for derived generators





Completeness: All BSTs can be generated











Integrate Chamelean with PBT projects by collaborators at UMD



Derive generators using Lean's Aesop proof search tactic

Heuristics for optimizing derived generators

The Search for Constrained Random Generators

ANONYMOUS AUTHOR(S)

Testing Theorems, Fully Automatically

ANONYMOUS AUTHOR(S)

Both submitted to POPL '26



Give users greater control over the distribution of generated values

Allow users to assign probabilities to constructors (à la OCaml QuickCheck)

```
type tree =
    | Leaf
    | Node1 of tree * int * tree [@weight 1/2]
    | Node2 of tree * int * tree [@weight 1/3]
[@@deriving quickcheck]
```

Tune generators using ideas from probabilistic programming

[DRAFT] Tuning Random Generators

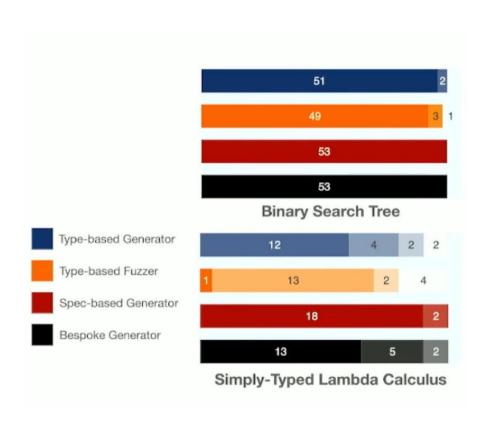
Property-Based Testing as Probabilistic Programming

RYAN TJOA, University of Washington, USA
POORVA GARG, University of California, Los Angeles, USA
HARRISON GOLDSTEIN, University of Maryland, USA
TODD MILLSTEIN, University of California, Los Angeles, USA
BENJAMIN PIERCE, University of Pennsylvania, USA
GUY VAN DEN BROECK, University of California, Los Angeles, USA

To appear at OOPSLA '25



Benchmark Chamelean's derived generators against their QuickChick counterparts



ETNA: An Evaluation Platform for Property-Based Testing (Experience Report)

JESSICA SHI, University of Pennsylvania, USA
ALPEREN KELES, University of Maryland, USA
HARRISON GOLDSTEIN, University of Pennsylvania, USA
BENJAMIN C. PIERCE, University of Pennsylvania, USA
LEONIDAS LAMPROPOULOS, University of Maryland, USA

ICFP '23 (extended version submitted to JFP)



Summary

Chamelean derives the following using Lean metaprogramming idioms:

For inductive relations

Generators

Enumerators

Checkers

For inductive types

Generators

Enumerators



Chamelean is open-source!

ngernest/chamelean



Ongoing work: merging Chamelean into Lean's Plausible PBT library

Feat: Automatically Derive Generators for Algebraic Data Types #35

1) Open | ngernest wants to merge 60 commits into leanprover-community:main from ngernest:main []



Thank you!

Ernest Ng ernest@cs.cornell.edu



Appendix



Checkers Invoking Enumerators: An Example

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \to \tau_2 \qquad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_1}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 e_2 : \tau_2}$$

t1 doesn't appear in the conclusion of TApp, but is used in hypotheses \Rightarrow the derived checker for typing needs to enumerate **t1**



•••

Checkers Invoking Enumerators: An Example

```
TApp : ∀ Γ e1 e2 τ1 τ2,
     typing Γ e2 τ1 →
     typing Γ e1 (Fun τ1 τ2) →
     typing Γ (App e1 e2) τ2
```

t1 doesn't appear in the conclusion of TApp, but is used in hypotheses \Rightarrow the derived checker for typing needs to enumerate **t1**



Given some inductive relation P, Chamelean derives:

Generators

(random)

Enumerators

(deterministic)

Gen a

List a

Produce α 's satisfying P

Checkers

(semi-decision procedures)

Option Bool

(None = out of fuel)

Checks if $P(\alpha)$ holds



One unifying framework

(Common metaprogramming infra + monadic operations)

Generators

Gen a

Enumerators

List a

Checkers

Option Bool



Smarter constraint ordering

Behavior of derived generator:

- Generate x such that lo < x < hi
- 2. Generate left & right subtrees



Smarter constraint ordering

- 1. Generate some unconstrained x
- 2. Generate left & right subtrees
- 3. Check that lo < x < hi This check will often fail!

(For arbitrarily generated x, Pr[lo < x < hi] is low)

