

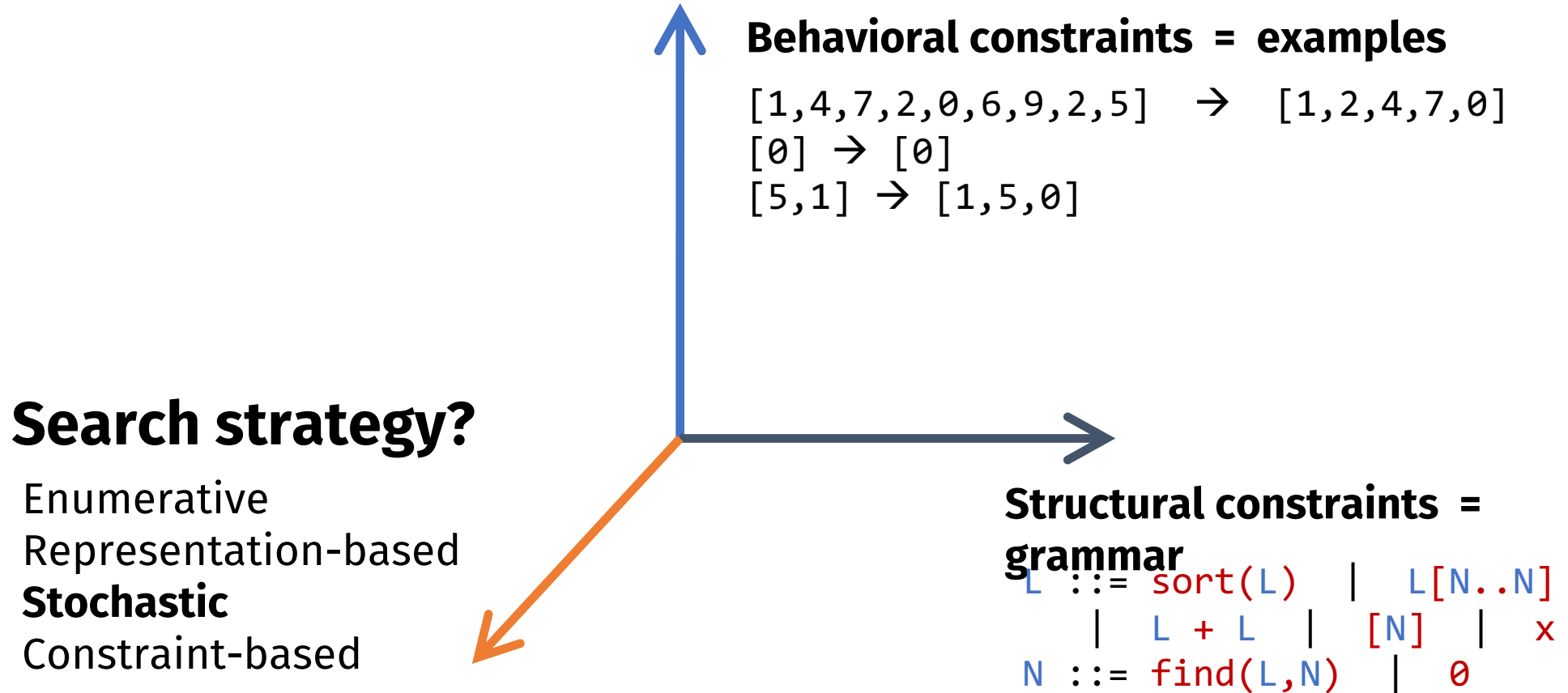
#11: Stochastic Search

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EECS 700: Introduction to Program Synthesis



The problem statement



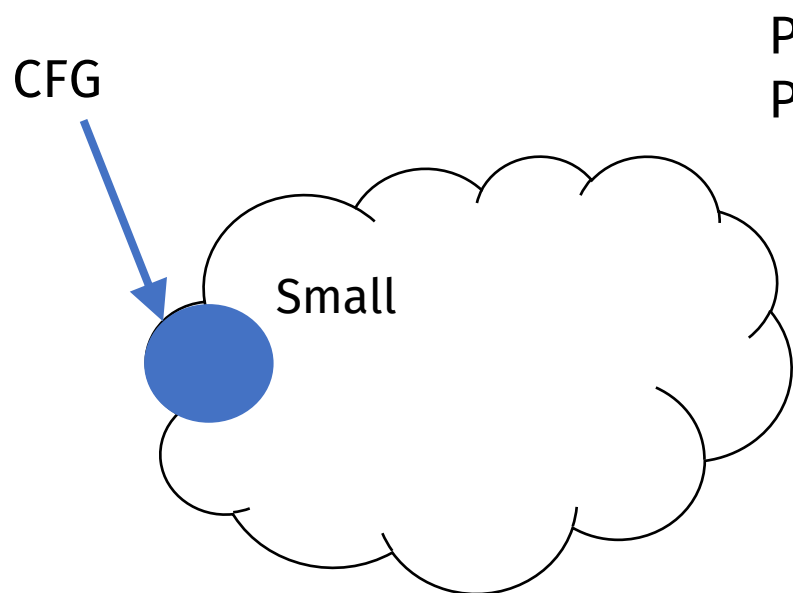
Stochastic search in synthesis

- Weimer, Nguyen, Le Goues, Forrest. *Automatically Finding Patches Using Genetic Programming*. ICSE'09
- Gissurarson, Applis, Panichella, van Deursen, Sands. *PropR: Property-Based Automatic Program Repair*. ICSE'22
- Schkufza, Sharma, Aiken: *Stochastic superoptimization*. ASPLOS'13
- Shi, Steinhardt, Liang: *FrAngel: Component-Based Synthesis with Control Structures*. POPL'19

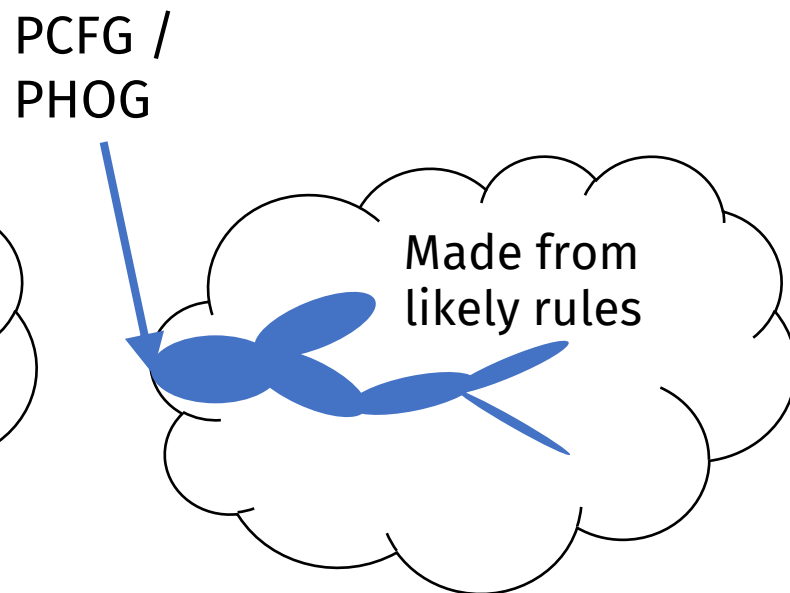
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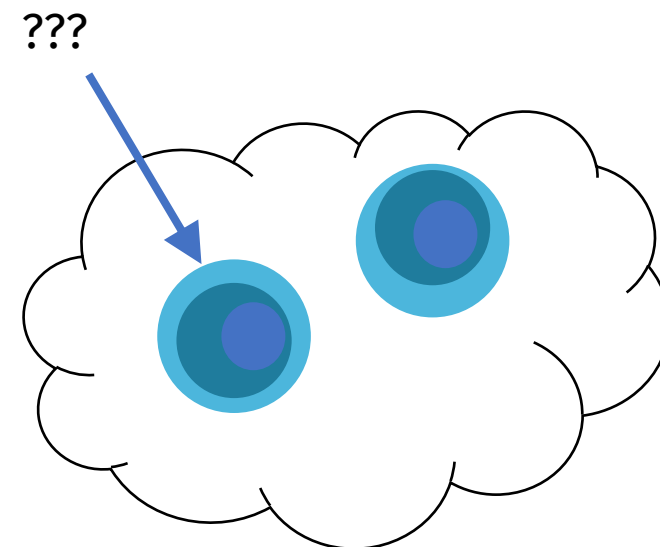
Search space



Enumerative
search



Weighted
enumerative
search



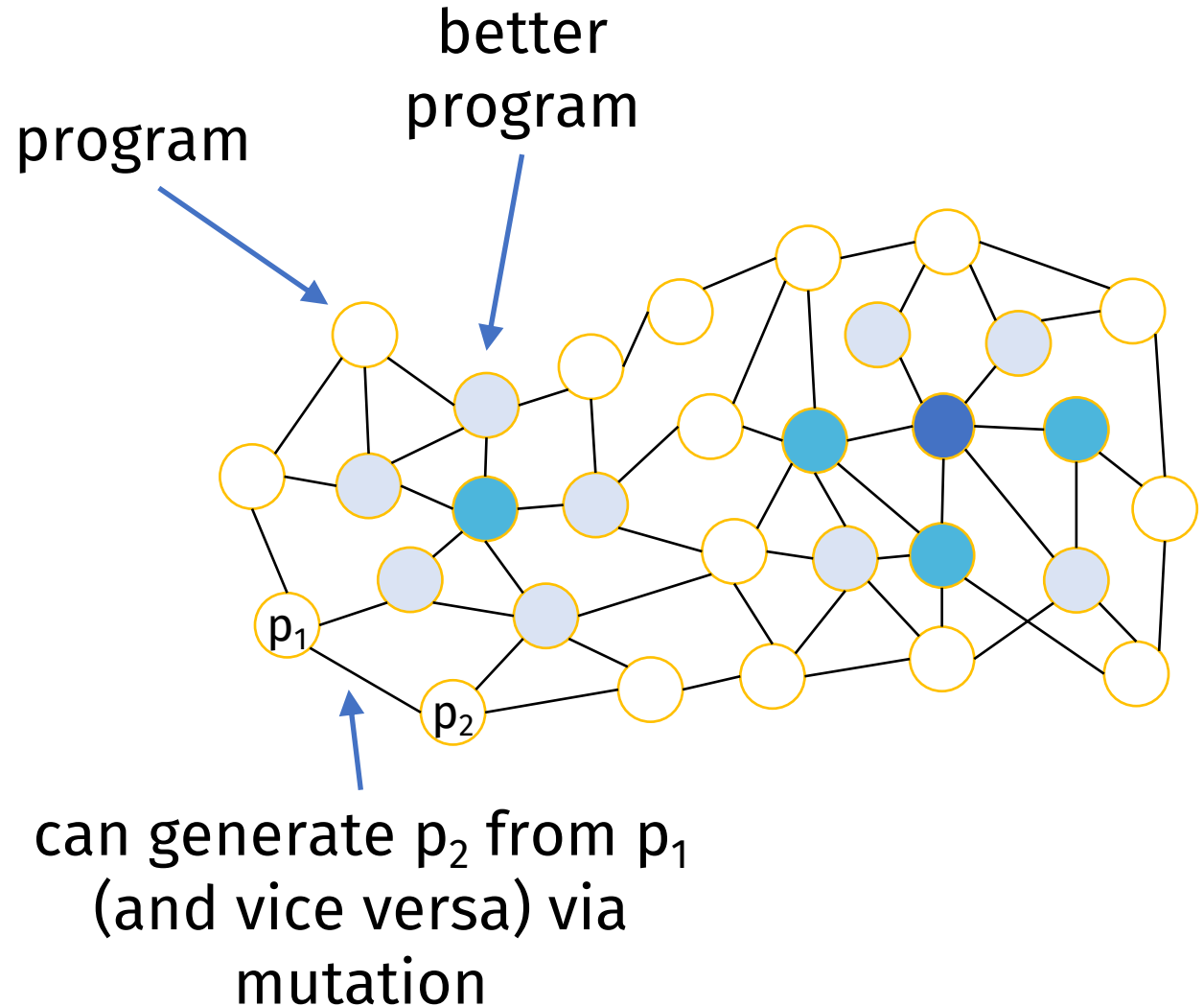
Local search

Naïve local search

- To find the best program:

```
p := random()
while (true) {
  p' := mutate(p);
  if (cost(p') < cost(p))
    p := p';
}
```

- Will never get to  from p_1 !



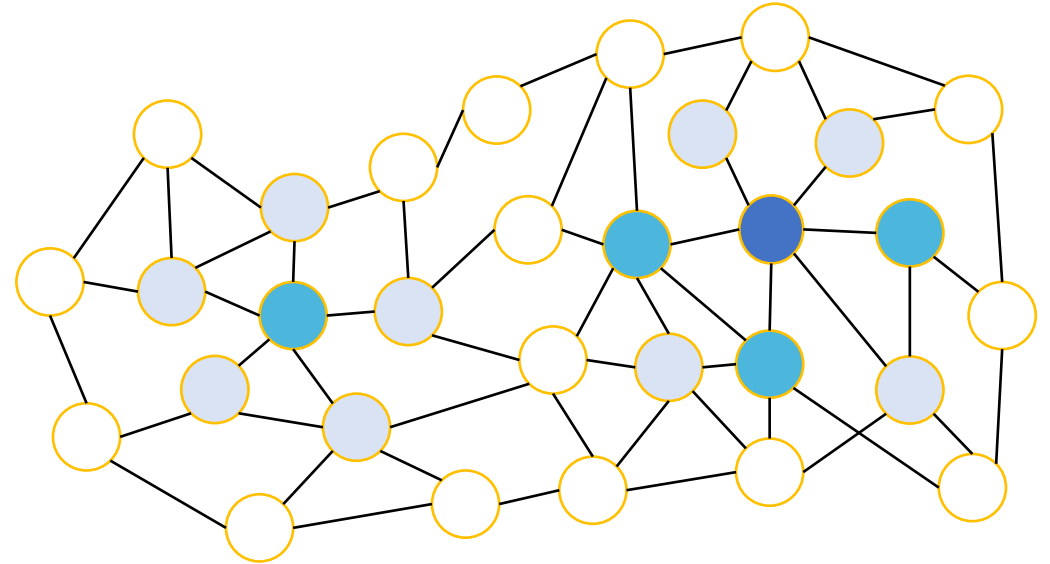
MCMC sampling

- Avoid getting stuck in local minima:

```
p := random()
while (true) {
  p' := mutate(p);
  if (random( $A(p \rightarrow p')$ ))
    p := p';
}
```

where,

- if p' is better than p : $A(p \rightarrow p') = 1$
- otherwise: $A(p \rightarrow p')$ decreases with difference in cost between p' and p



MCMC sampling

- Metropolis algorithm:

$$A(p \rightarrow p') = \min(1, e^{-\beta(C(p') - C(p))})$$

- The theory of Markov chains tells us that in the limit we will be sampling with the probability proportional to

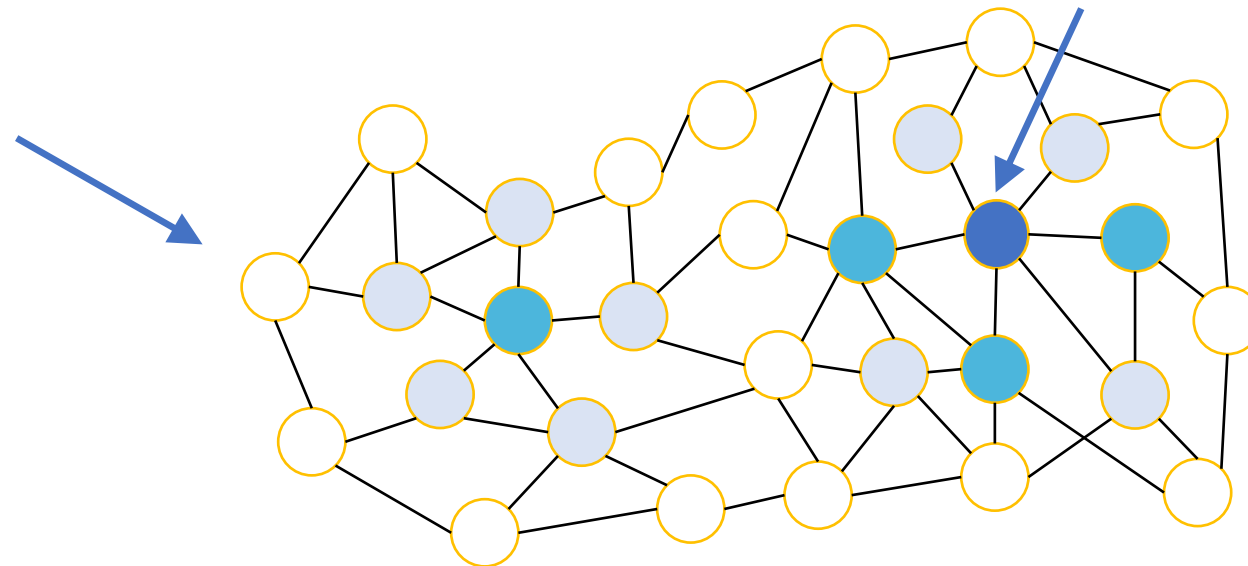
$$e^{-\beta * C(p)}$$

MCMC for superoptimization

[Schkufza, Sharma, Aiken '13]

```
.L0:
movq rsi, r9
movl ecx, ecx
shrq 32, rsi
andl 0xffffffff, r9d
movq rcx, rax
movl edx, edx
imulq r9, rax
imulq rdx, r9
imulq rsi, rdx
imulq rsi, rcx
addq rdx, rax
jae .L2
movabsq 0x100000000, rdx
addq rdx, rcx
.L2:
movq rax, rsi
movq rax, rdx
shrq 32, rsi
salq 32, rdx
addq rsi, rcx
addq r9, rdx
adcq 0, rcx
addq r8, rdx
adcq 0, rcx
addq rdi, rdx
adcq 0, rcx
movq rcx, r8
movq rdx, rdi
```

```
.L0:
shlq 32, rcx
movl edx, edx
xorq rdx, rcx
movq rcx, rax
mulq rsi
addq r8, rdi
adcq 0, rdx
addq rdi, rax
adcq 0, rdx
movq rdx, r8
movq rax, rdi
```



Cost function

$$C_s(p) = eq_s(p) + perf(p)$$

Diagram illustrating the cost function $C_s(p)$:

- $C_s(p)$: source program
- $eq_s(p)$: penalty for wrong results
- $perf(p)$: penalty for being slow

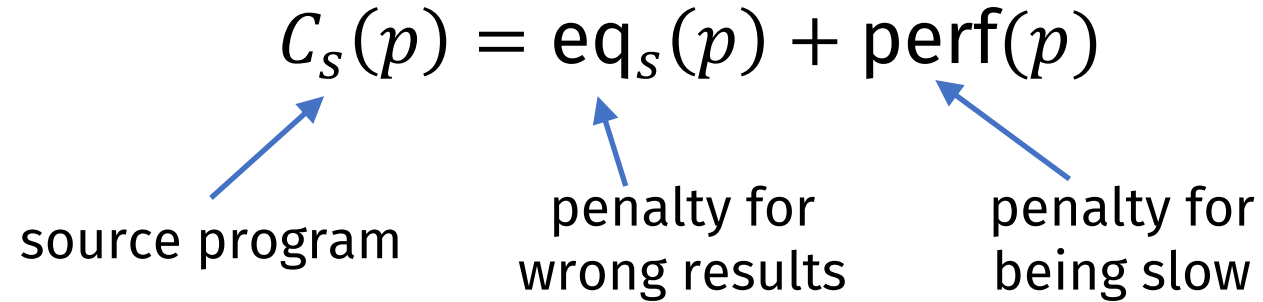
$$eq_s(p) = \sum_{t \in Tests} reg_s(p, t) + mem_s(p, t) + err(p, t)$$

Diagram illustrating the components of $eq_s(p)$:

- $reg_s(p, t)$: # of different bits in registers/memory
- $mem_s(p, t)$: # of segfaults etc
- $err(p, t)$: # of segfaults etc

when $eq_s(p) = 0$, use a symbolic validator

Cost function

$$C_s(p) = \text{eq}_s(p) + \text{perf}(p)$$


The diagram illustrates the components of the cost function $C_s(p)$. It features the equation $C_s(p) = \text{eq}_s(p) + \text{perf}(p)$ at the top. Below the equation, three blue arrows point from descriptive text to the terms in the equation: one from 'source program' to $C_s(p)$, one from 'penalty for wrong results' to $\text{eq}_s(p)$, and one from 'penalty for being slow' to $\text{perf}(p)$.

source program

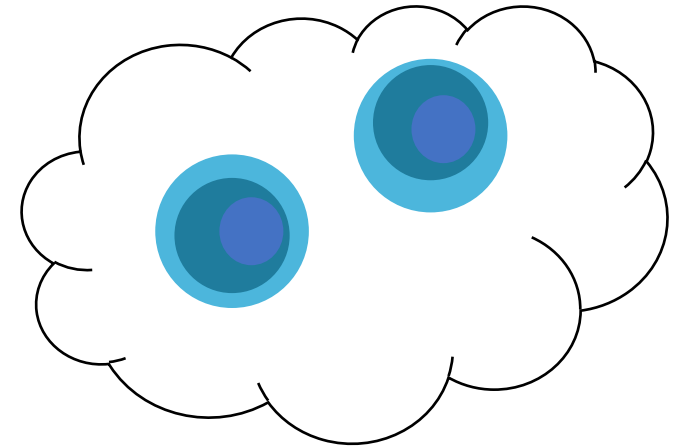
penalty for wrong results

penalty for being slow

$$\text{perf}(p) = \sum_{i \in \text{instr}(p)} \text{latency}(i)$$

Local search: discussion

- Strengths:
 - can explore program spaces with no a-priori bias
- Limitations?
 - only applicable when there is a cost function that faithfully approximates correctness
 - Counterexample: round to next power of two
 - 0011 -> 0100
 - 0101 -> 1000
 - 0111 -> 1000



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 - Similar but for program repair, uses genetic programming
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 - Samples from a grammar with bias towards partial solutions