

# **#31: Paper Discussion and Synthesis with Abstract Interpretation (cont.)**

**Sankha Narayan Guria**

EECS 700: Introduction to Program Synthesis



# Logistics

- Last paper reading assignment (to be released today)
- Start working on your project
  - Meet with me if you need to discuss anything
- Deliverables:
  - Final report (5-8 pages): intro, describe your algorithm with an example, general algorithm, design decisions, evaluations
  - GitHub repo link (put in your report)
  - Presentations (13 mins each)

# Regae

[Zhang, Lowmanstone, Wang, Glassman,  
UIST'20]

Better UI for a regex synthesizer

# Regae: contributions

- Novel way to express intent: semantics augmentation
- Novel way to explain synthesis results to user: data augmentation
- Automata-theoretic algorithms to generate explanatory examples
  - familiar examples with different output, corner cases, distinguishing examples
- Usability confirmed by user study
  - Completion rate: 12/12 vs 4/12; twice more confident; less cognitive load

# Regae: limitations

Limited to regexes

Which parts are generalizable and which not?

Marking as general affects completeness

Not tolerant to user mistakes

User study participants might not be representative

# Regae: questions

- Behavioral constraints? Structural constraints? Search strategy?
  - IO examples
  - Built-in DSL
  - Top-down enumerative search

# Regae: questions

- Does semantic augmentation contribute to behavioral or structural constraints, or something else?
  - Structural because it affects the search space
- What about data augmentation?
  - Directly contributes only to result comprehension
  - Indirectly to behavioral because users can use those examples as input

# Regae: questions

- When can we soundly reject the sketch `concat(<num>, e)`?
  - If e.g. `<num>` is marked excluded [that's not what I meant]
  - When there is a positive example that doesn't start with a number
  - More generally, replace `e` with `star(<any>)` and check whether all positives can be parsed!
    - if under not, then replace with an empty-language regex
  - Another idea is define equivalence on regexes, e.g. `optional(star(e))` is equivalent to `star(e)`



# Regae: questions

- Why is it important to randomize the order of control vs treatment?

# RbSyn

[Guria, Foster, Van Horn, PLDI'21]

Program synthesis from side effects

# RbSyn: contributions

- Using side-effects to guide search
- Rule based merging to create if-then-else branches
- Automatic side effect inference from test failures
- Evaluated on programs from real-world benchmarks

# RbSyn: limitations

- Cannot synthesize loops/lambdas/etc.
- Effect annotation burden may require domain insight
- Limited to typed subset of Ruby

# RbSyn: questions

- Branch merging strategy wrt Synquid and EUSolver?
  - Synquid uses liquid abduction
  - EUSolver uses decision tree learning (information gain heuristic)
  - RbSyn uses rules-based approach as no counterexample possible

# RbSyn: questions

- Scaling of branch merging with changing no. of tests ( $N$ )
  - $N!$  ways of merges to be checked
  - It is  $M!$  if there are only  $M$  distinct programs from tests
  - The bottleneck is the number of distinct solutions to individual tests

# RbSyn: questions

- Order of search for effect annotations:
  - `User.name`
  - `User`
  - `*`
- Methods to be considered in this order: `name=`, `save`, `delete`

# RbSyn: questions

- Why does RbSyn stay sound?
  - Wrong effect inferred: Adds program to the work list, no sound program is eliminated from the work list
  - Wrong method substituted: All correct effect annotated method choices are enumerated



# Today

- Synthesizing data-structure manipulation from storyboards
  - Rishabh Singh, Armando Solar-Lezama
- **Absynthe: Abstract Interpretation-Guided Synthesis**
  - Sankha Narayan Guria, Jeff Foster, David Van Horn

# Example

arg0

	id	valueA
0	255	1141
1	91	1130
2	347	830
⋮	⋮	⋮
8	225	638
9	257	616

arg1

	id	valueB
0	255	1231
1	91	1170
2	5247	954
⋮	⋮	⋮
12	211	575
13	25	530



arg2

"valueA  $\neq$  valueB"

	id	valueA	valueB
0	255	1141	1231
1	91	1130	1170
2	347	830	870
5	159	715	734
8	225	638	644

Types and column labels are a potential good abstraction

{"id", "valueA", "valueB"} x DataFrame

# Types Abstract Interpreter

```
class PyTypeInterp
```

Parameter to Absynthe  
for a class of problems

**Pandas data frame merge**


```
# left.merge(right, opts)  
df1.merge(df2, on = ['id'])
```

```
end
```

# Types Abstract Interpreter

```
class PyTypeInterp
  def self.pd_merge(left, right, opt)
    if left ⊆ DataFrame &&
      right ⊆ DataFrame &&
      opt ⊆ { on: Array<String>}
      DataFrame
    end
  end
end
```

## Pandas data frame query



```
# df.query(pred)
df.query('valueA > 10')
```

```
end
```

# Columns Abstract Interpreter

```
class ColNameInterp
```

```
end
```

## Pandas data frame merge

← `df1.merge(df2, on = ['id'])`

Final data frame is union of both

# Columns Abstract Interpreter

```
class ColNameInterp
  def self.pd_merge(left, right, opt)
    left ∪ right
  end
end
```

## Pandas data frame query

df.query('valueA > 10')

Final data frame has same columns

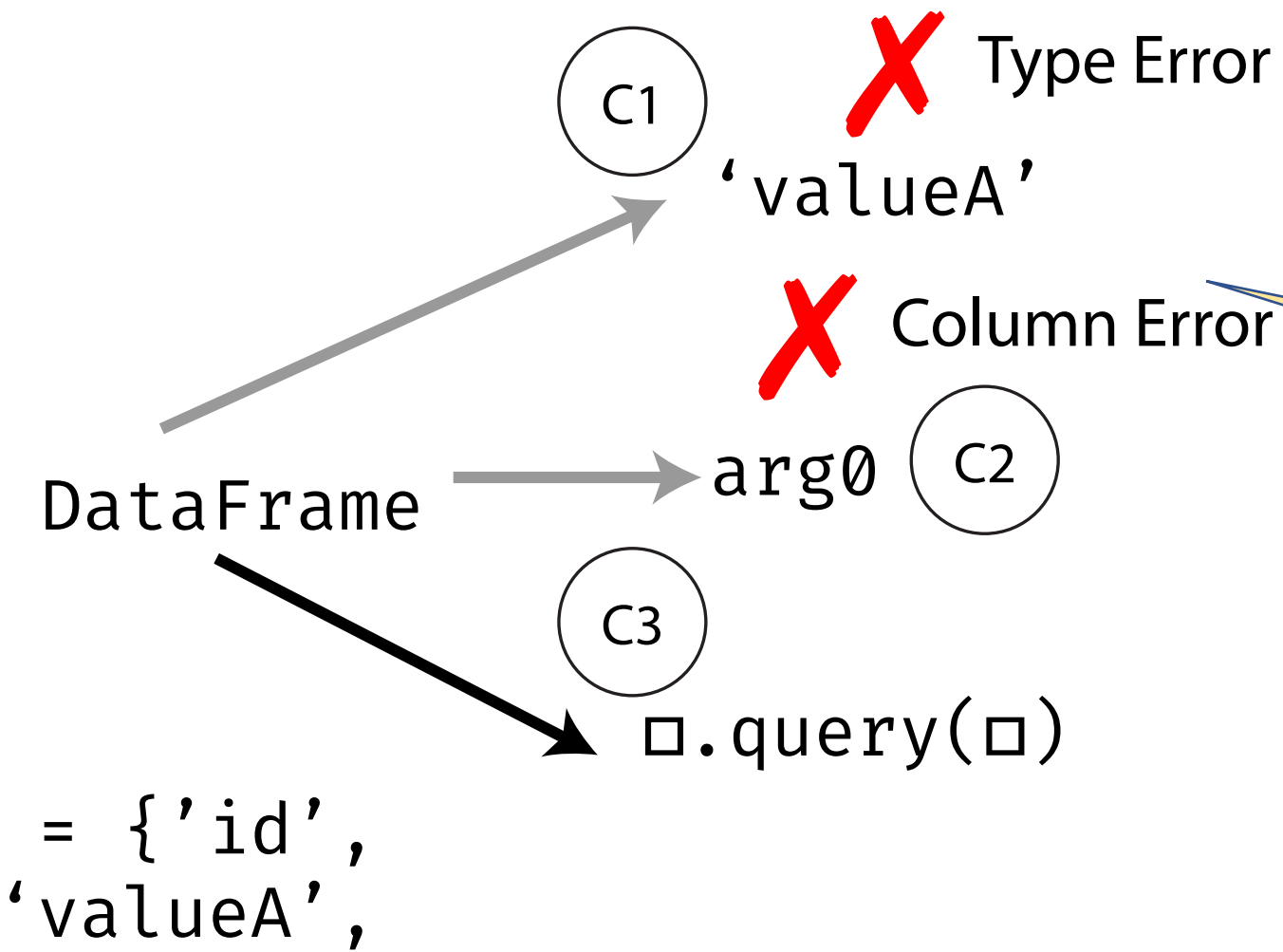


C0

Starting candidate derived  
from the synthesis goal

□: Col x DataFrame

```
Col = {'id',  
      'valueA',  
      'valueB'}
```



Concrete values not in abstract  
domain never synthesized



Partial programs are evaluated through the abstract interpreter

C4

$\square$ .query(arg0)

**X** Type Error

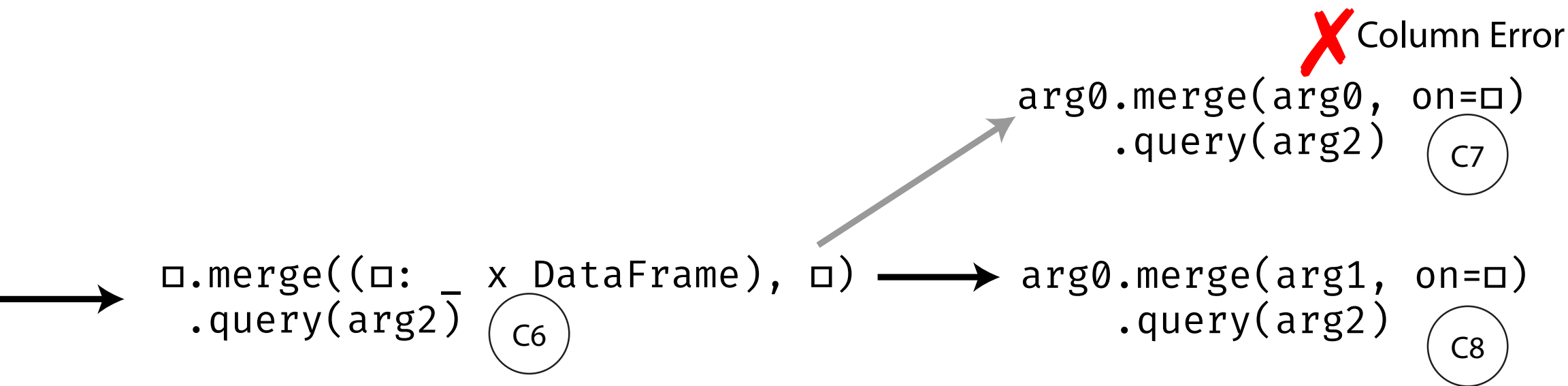
Abstract values for holes are inferred

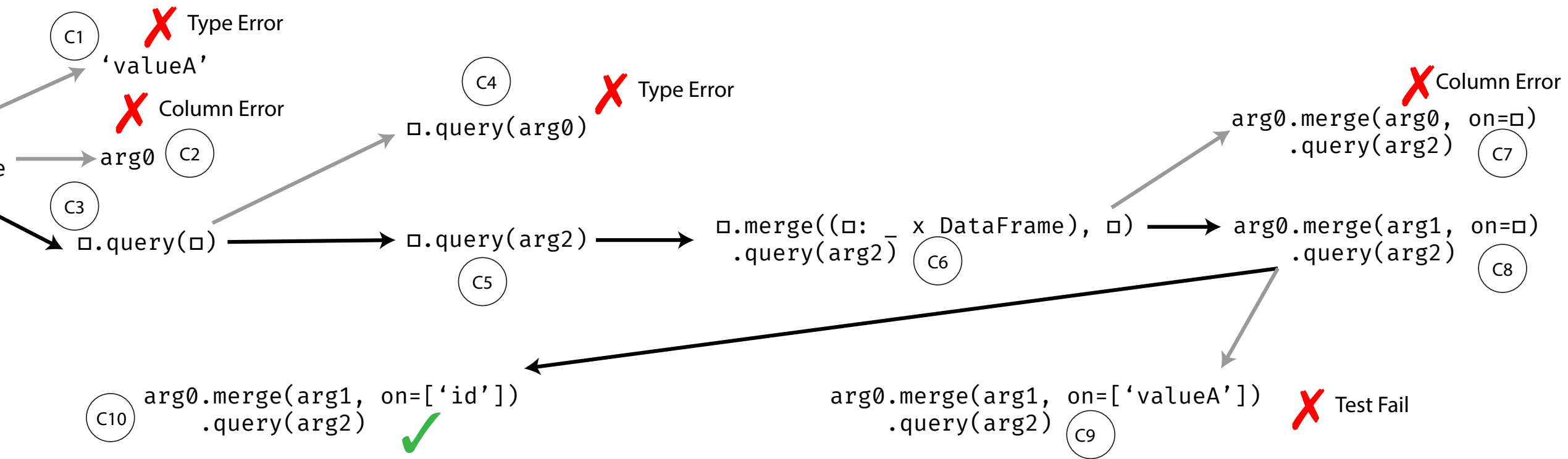
$\square$ .query(arg2)

C5

$\square$ .merge(( $\square$ :  
          .query(arg2) x DataFrame),  $\square$ )

C6






Correct solution!

# Searching for Programs

Synthesize a term:

$\blacksquare_1 \cdot \text{query}(\blacksquare_2)$

such that it satisfies a  
synthesis goal 

Semantics of  $\blacksquare_1 \cdot \text{query}(\blacksquare_2)$

`arg0.query("id != 0")`

`arg0.query( $\blacksquare_3$ ).query( $\blacksquare_2$ )`

`arg0.query( $\blacksquare_2$ )`



# Searching for Programs

Synthesize a term:

`arg0.query(■2)`

○ = Synthesis goal

Assign something  
to ■<sub>2</sub>

`arg0.query(■2)`

Reason over partial  
programs

# Inferring abstract values

## Finite abstract domains:

Types: Int, Str, DataFrame

## Infinite abstract domains:

### Solver-aided:

String Length: Linear integer arithmetic

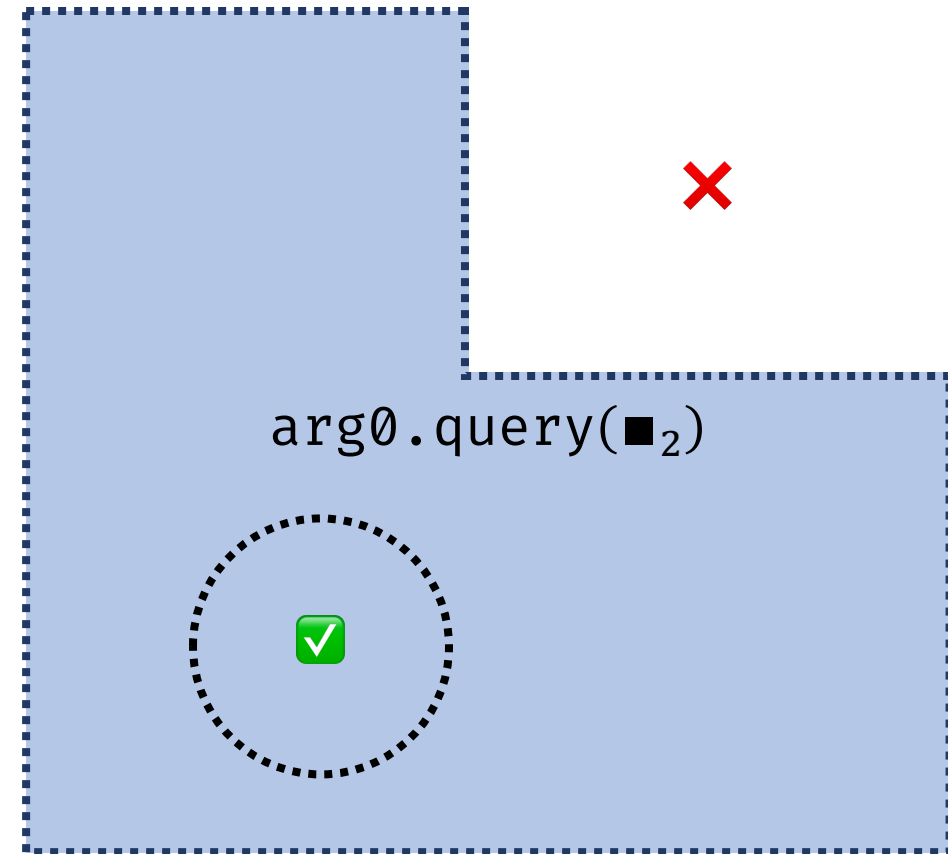
### Other:

Data frame columns

Enumerate through  
valid abstract values

Keep 1 hole symbolic  
and solve for it

Fall back to term  
enumeration



# Absynthe: Abstract Interpretation-Guided Synthesis

- Abstract domains are good at pruning search space
- Framework uses abstract interpreters as a parameter to guide search
- Abstractions for holes are inferred from abstract semantics
- Solves AutoPandas with simple abstract semantics without GPUs



<https://github.com/ngsankha/absynthe>