Solver-aided programming: getting started

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Solver-aided programming in two parts: (I) getting started and (2) going pro



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Solver-aided programming in two parts: (1) getting started and (2) going pro

How to use a solver-aided language: the workflow, constructs, and gotchas.



Solver-aided programming in two parts: (1) getting started and (2) going pro

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How to use a solver-aided language: the workflow, constructs, and gotchas.

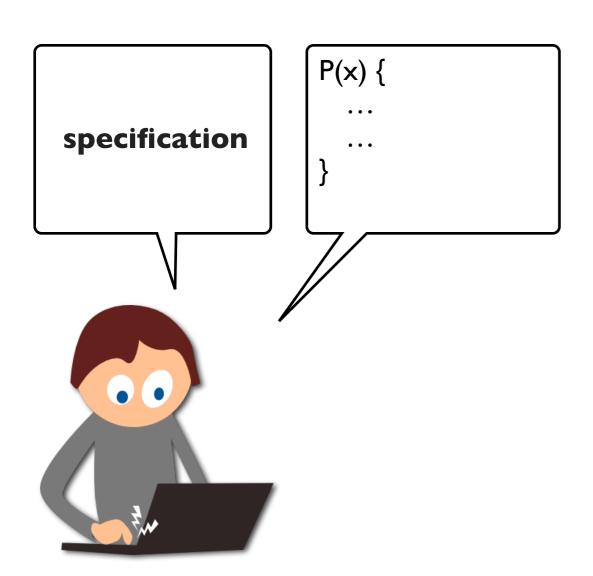
RUSETTE

A programming model that integrates solvers into the language, providing constructs for program verification, synthesis, and more.

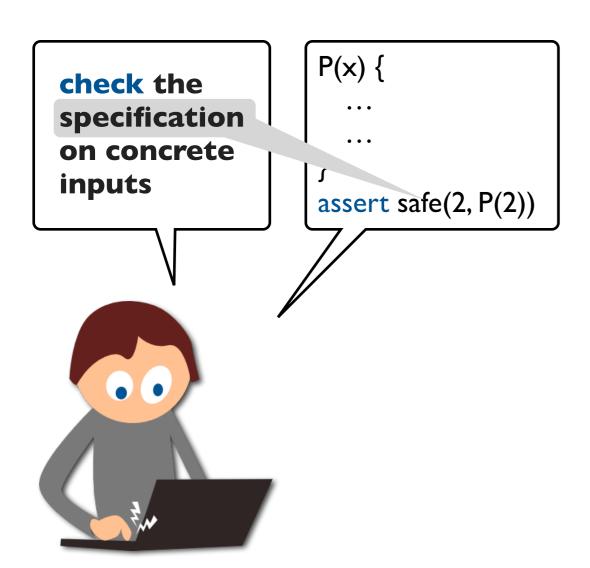
Solver-aided programming in two parts: (I) getting started and (2) going pro

How to use a solver-aided language: the workflow, constructs and gotchas.

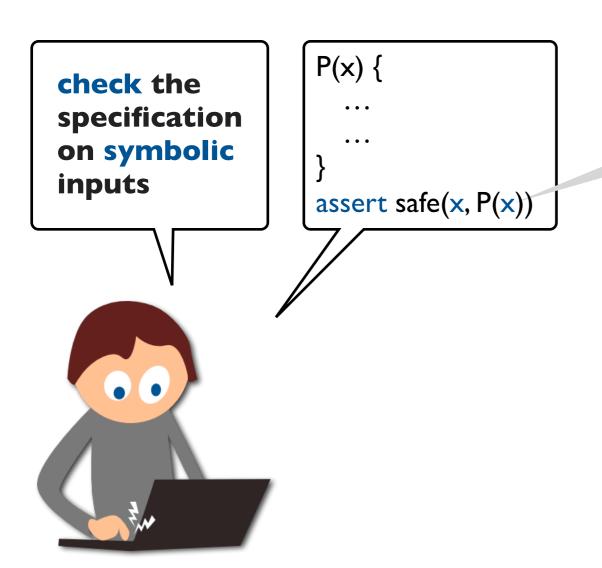
Classic programming: from spec to code



Classic programming: check code against spec

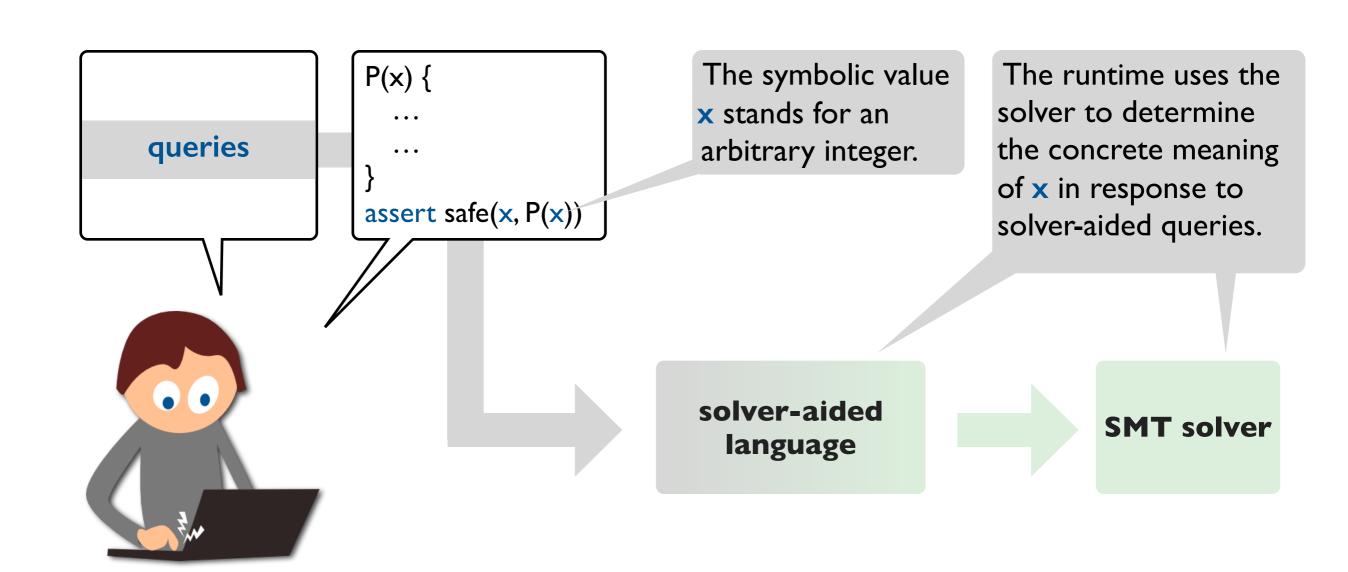


Solver-aided programming: add symbolic values

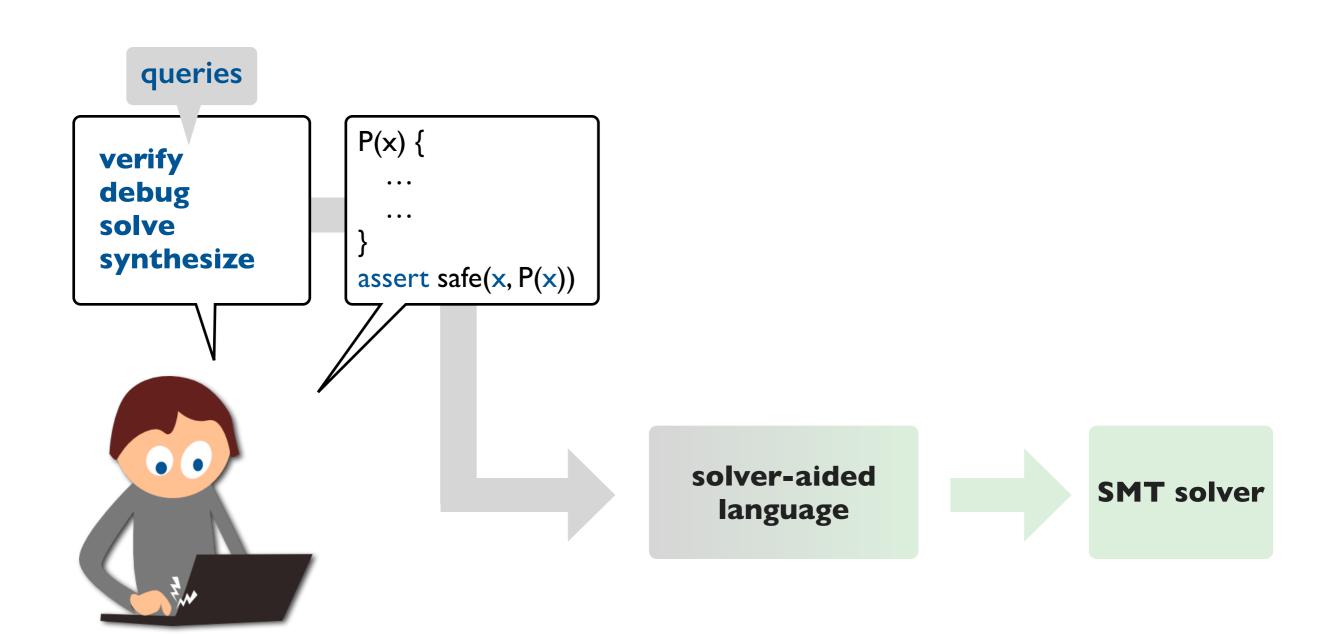


The symbolic value x stands for an arbitrary integer.

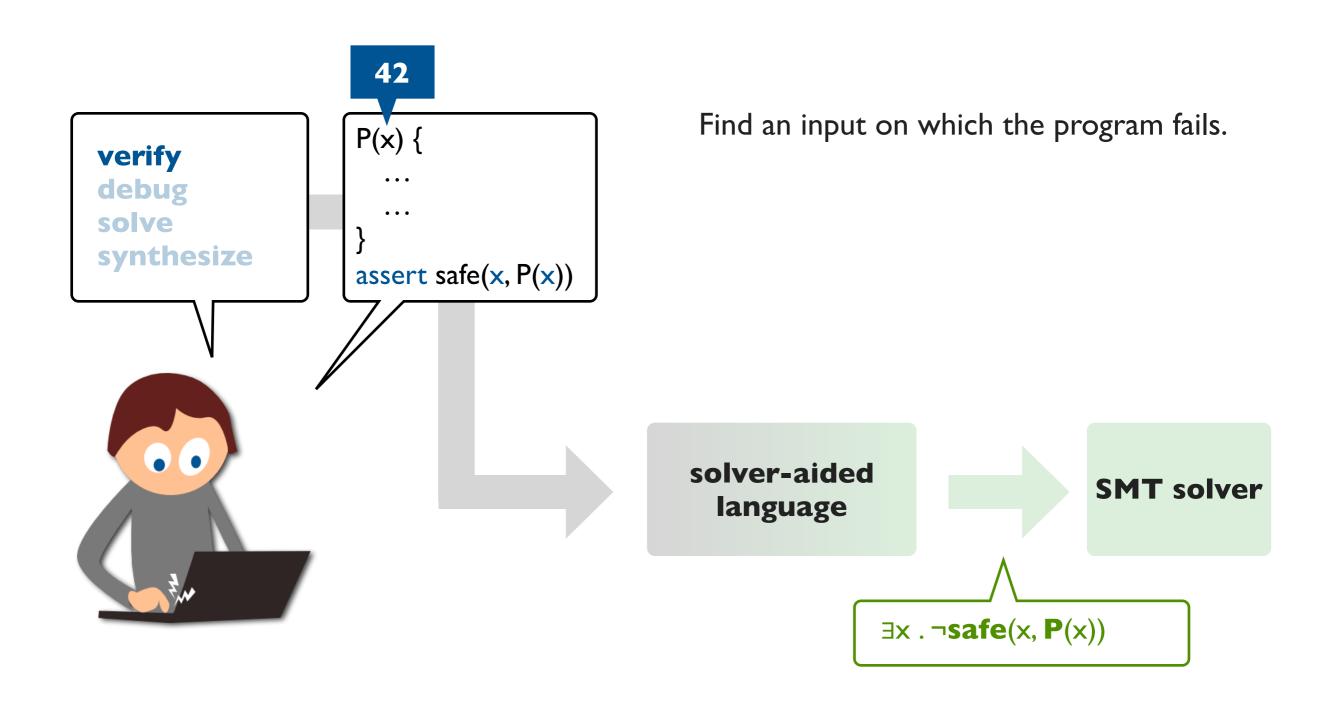
Solver-aided programming: query code against spec



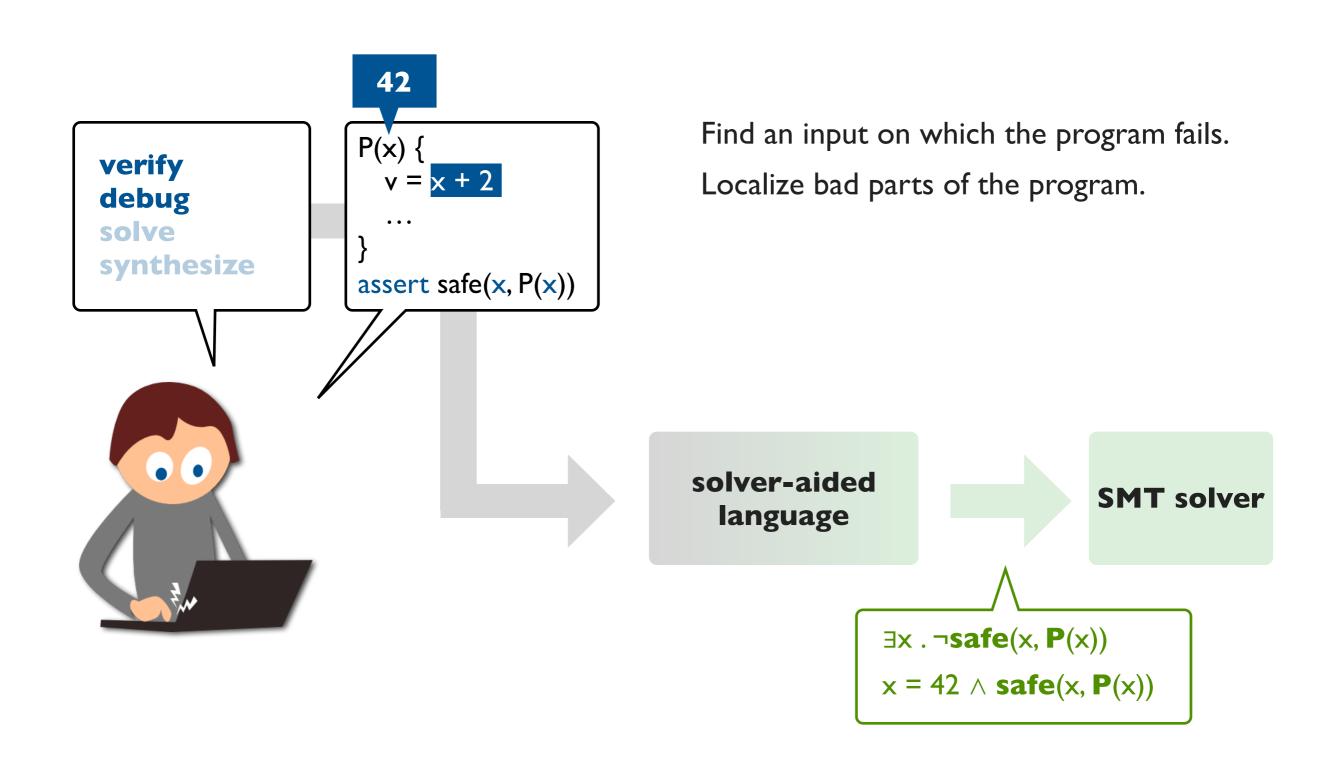
Solver-aided programming: query code against spec



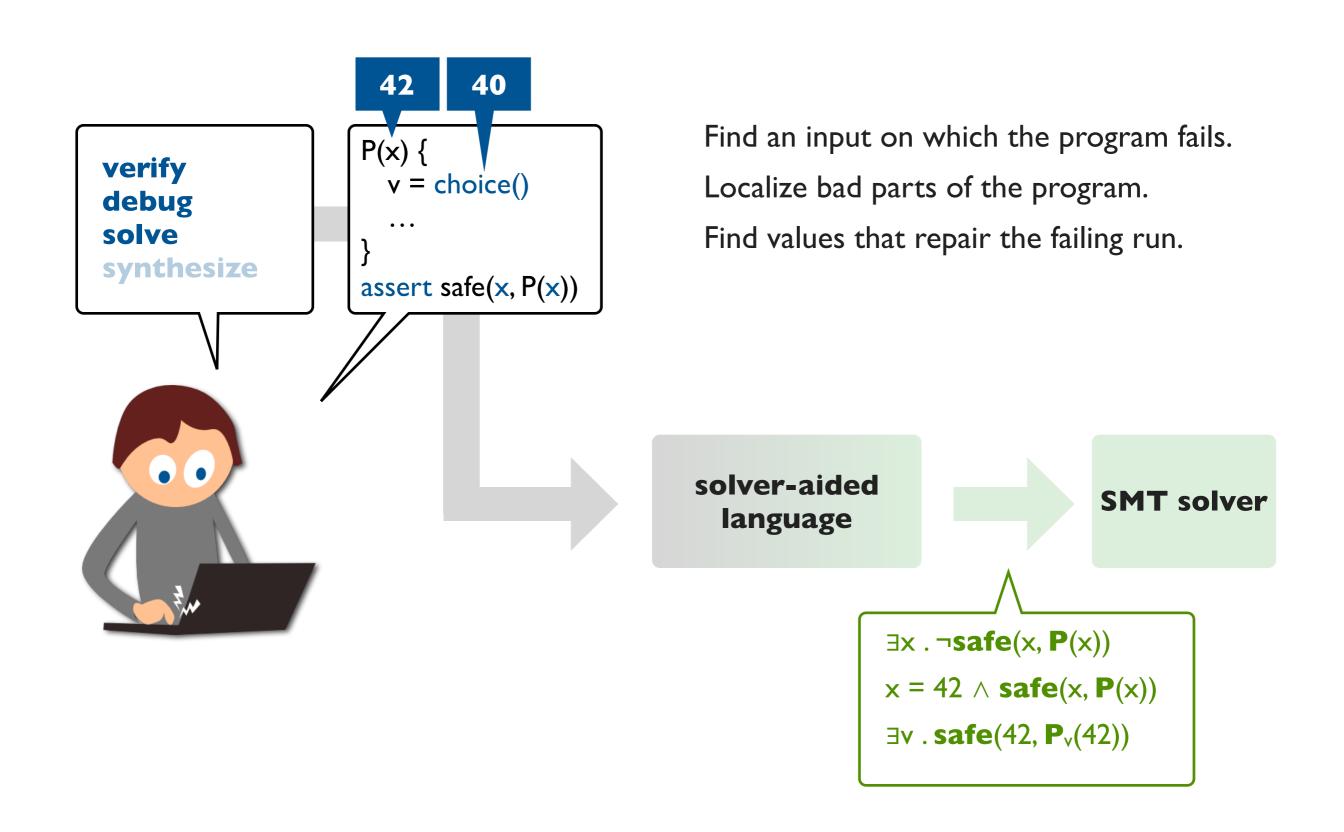
Solver-aided programming: verify code against spec



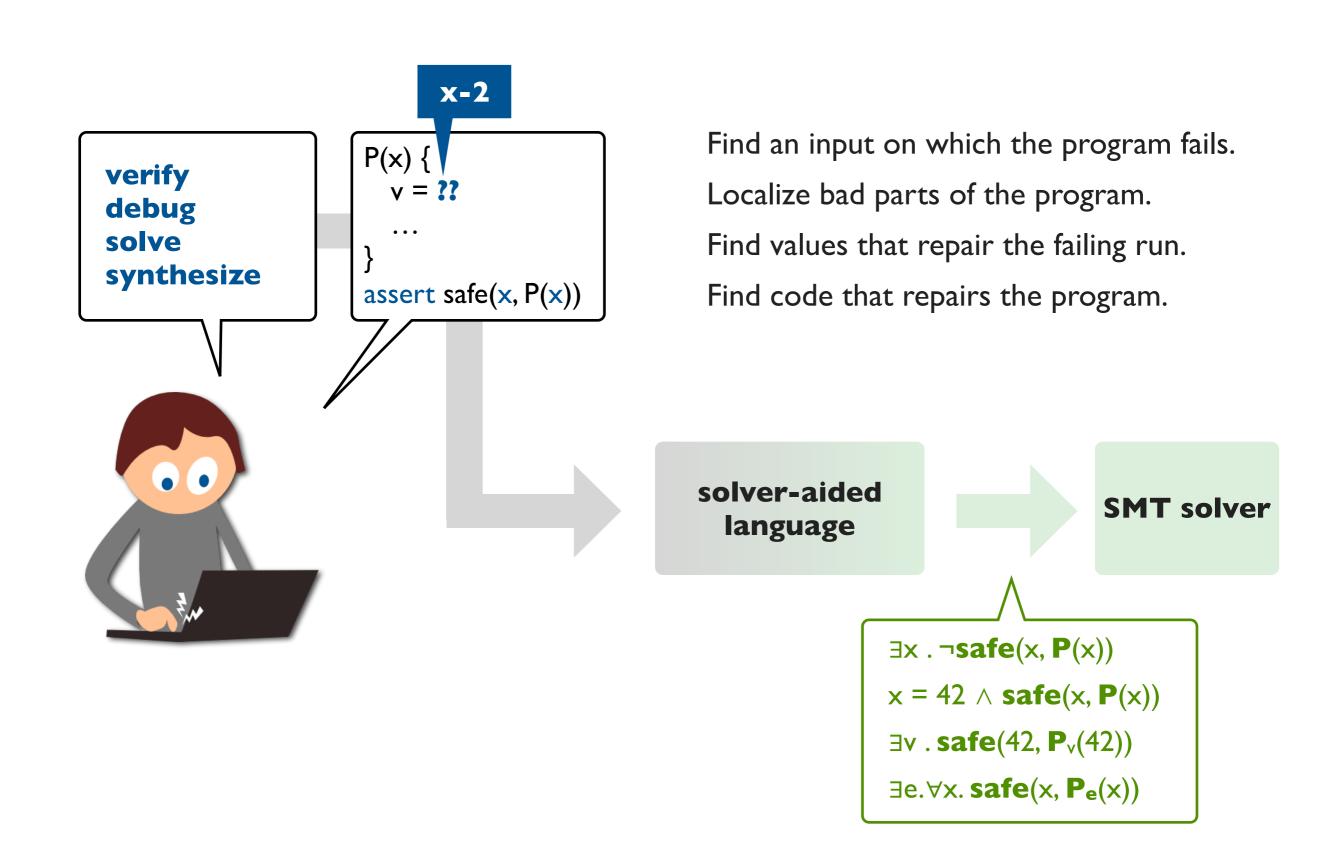
Solver-aided programming: debug code against spec



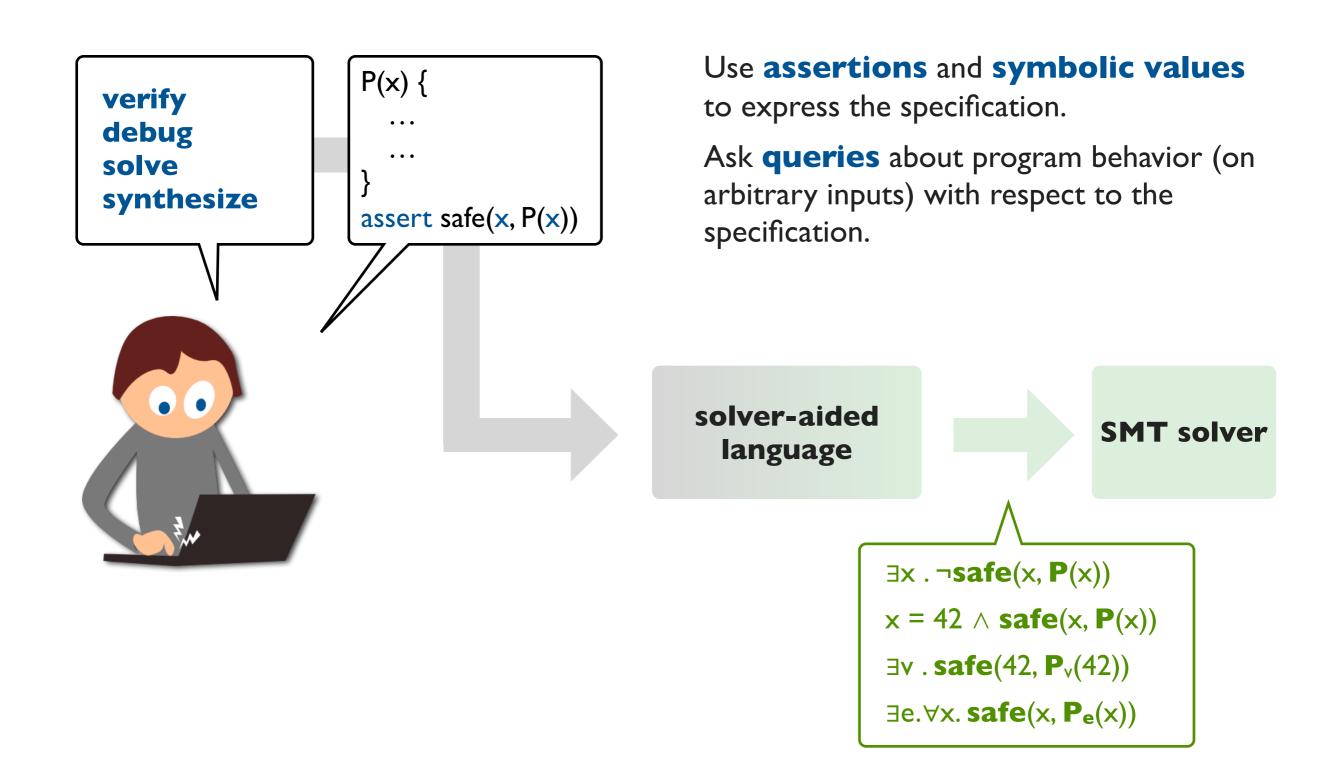
Solver-aided programming: solve for values from spec

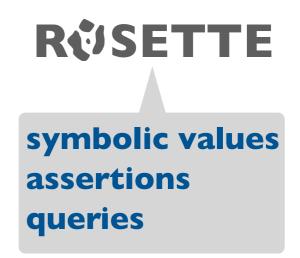


Solver-aided programming: synthesize code from spec



Solver-aided programming: workflow

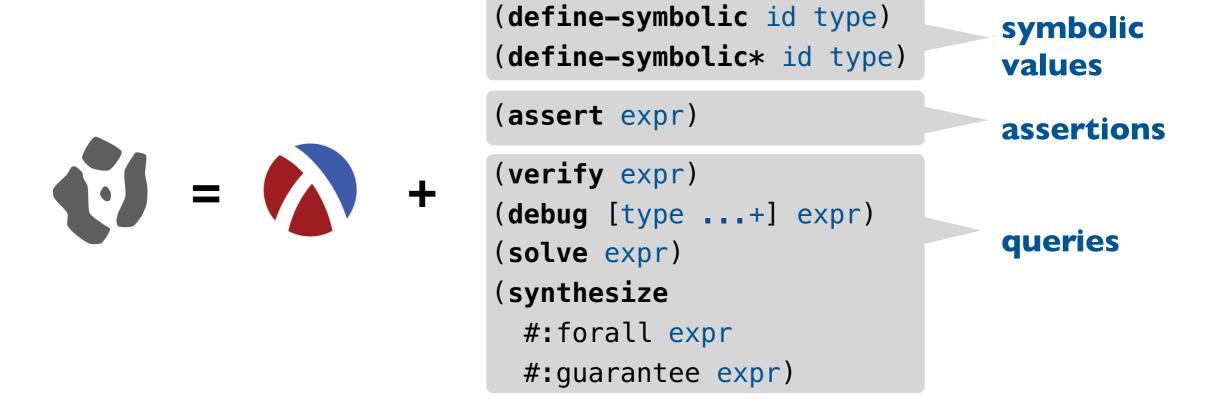




Solver-aided programming in two parts: (I) getting started and (2) going pro

How to use a solver-aided language: the workflow, constructs, and gotchas.

Rosette extends Racket with solver-aided constructs



Rosette extends Racket with solver-aided constructs

"A programming language for creating new programming languages"



A modern descendent of Scheme and Lisp with powerful macro-based meta programming.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

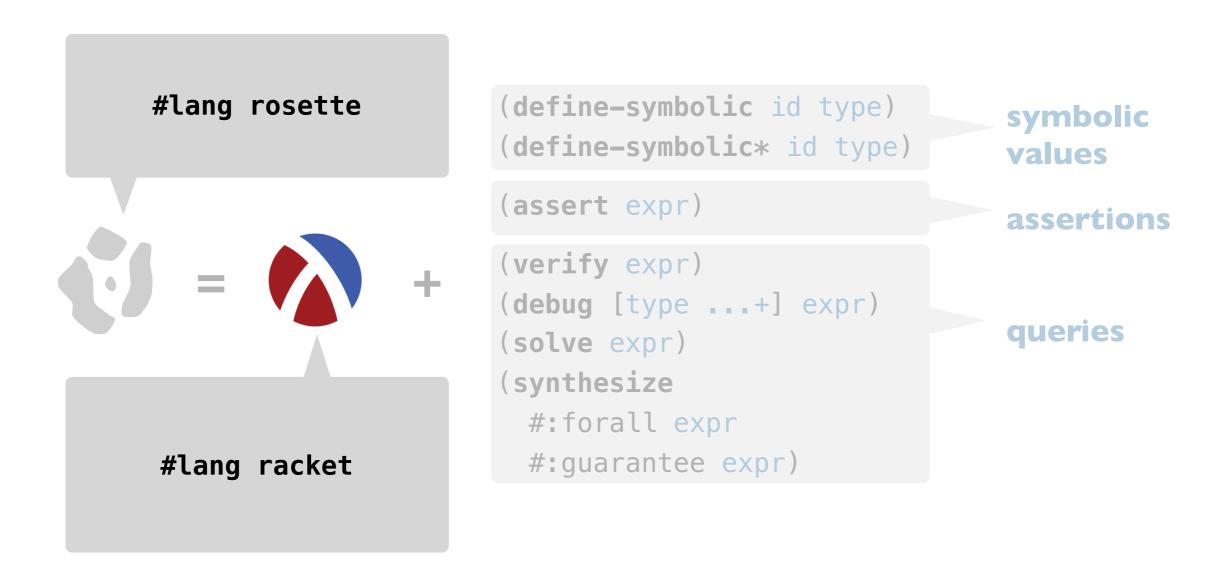
(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
  #:guarantee expr)

    symbolic values

    assertions

queries
```

Rosette extends Racket with solver-aided constructs



```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
  #:guarantee expr)
```

define-symbolic creates a fresh symbolic constant of the given type and binds it to the variable id.

> (define-symbolic x integer?)

A type that is efficiently supported by SMT solvers: booleans, integers, reals, bitvectors, uninterpreted functions.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
  #:guarantee expr)
```

define-symbolic creates a fresh symbolic constant of the given type and binds it to the variable id.

> (define-symbolic x integer?)

A type that is efficiently supported by SMT solvers: booleans, integers, reals, bitvectors, uninterpreted functions.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
  #:guarantee expr)
```

define-symbolic creates a fresh symbolic constant of the given type and binds it to the variable id.

```
> (define-symbolic x integer?)
> (+ 1 x 2 3)
(+ 6 x)
```

Symbolic values of a given type can be used just like concrete values of that type.

A type that is efficiently supported by SMT solvers: booleans, integers, reals, bitvectors, uninterpreted functions.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
  #:guarantee expr)
```

define-symbolic creates a fresh symbolic constant of the given type and binds it to the variable id.

Symbolic values of a given type can be used just like concrete values of that type.

A type that is efficiently supported by SMT solvers: booleans, integers, reals, bitvectors, uninterpreted functions.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
  #:guarantee expr)
```

define-symbolic* creates a fresh symbolic constant of the given type and binds it to the variable id.

Symbolic values of a given type can be used just like concrete values of that type.

Rosette constructs: creating complex symbolic values

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
  #:guarantee expr)
```

define-symbolic(*) can be used to create bounded symbolic instances of complex data types.

Rosette constructs: creating complex symbolic values

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
  #:guarantee expr)
```

define-symbolic(*) can be used to create bounded symbolic instances of complex data types.

```
> (define-symbolic* xs integer? [4])
> xs
(list xs$0 xs$1 xs$2 xs$3)
```

A concrete list of 4 symbolic integers; this is just a short-hand for evaluating **define-symbolic*** 4 times and collecting the results into a list.

Rosette constructs: creating complex symbolic values

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
  #:guarantee expr)
```

define-symbolic(*) can be used to create *bounded* symbolic instances of complex data types.

```
> (define-symbolic* xs integer? [4])
> xs
(list xs$0 xs$1 xs$2 xs$3)
> (define-symbolic* len integer?)
> (take xs len)
{[(= 0 len$0) ()]
  [(= 1 len$0) (xs$0)]
  [(= 2 len$0) (xs$0 xs$1)]
  [(= 3 len$0) (xs$0 xs$1 xs$2)]}
```

A symbolic list of length up to 4, consisting of symbolic integers.

Rosette constructs: assert

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
  #:guarantee expr)
```

assert checks that expr evaluates to a true value.

```
> (assert (>= 2 1)); passes
> (assert (< 2 1)); fails
assert: failed</pre>
```

Rosette constructs: assert

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
    #:forall expr
    #:guarantee expr)
```

assert checks that expr evaluates to a true value.

```
> (assert (>= 2 1)); passes
> (assert (< 2 1)); fails
assert: failed
> (define-symbolic* x integer?)
> (assert (>= x 1))
Symbolic expr gets added to the
```

Symbolic expr gets added to the assertion store. Its meaning (true or false) is eventually determined by the solver in response to queries.

Rosette constructs: assert

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
  #:guarantee expr)
```

assert checks that expr evaluates to a true value.

```
> (assert (>= 2 1)); passes
> (assert (< 2 1)); fails
assert: failed

> (define-symbolic* x integer?)
> (assert (>= x 1))
> (asserts)
(list (<= 1 x$0) ...)</pre>
```

Symbolic expr gets added to the assertion store. Its meaning (true or false) is eventually determined by the solver in response to queries.

Rosette constructs: from assert to verify

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
  #:guarantee expr)
```

```
(define (poly x)
 (+ (* \times \times \times \times) (* 6 \times \times \times))
     (* 11 \times x) (* 6 \times)))
(define (fact x)
 (* \times (+ \times 1) (+ \times 2) (+ \times 2)))
(define (same p f x)
 (assert (= (p x) (f x)))
; some tests ...
> (same poly fact 0) ; pass
> (same poly fact -1); pass
> (same poly fact -2); pass
```

Rosette constructs: verify

verify searches for a binding of symbolic constants to concrete values that causes at least one assertion in expr to fail.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
  #:guarantee expr)
```

```
(define (poly x)
 (+ (* x x x x) (* 6 x x x))
    (* 11 \times x) (* 6 \times))
(define (fact x)
 (* \times (+ \times 1) (+ \times 2) (+ \times 2)))
(define (same p f x)
 (assert (= (p x) (f x)))
; some tests ...
> (same poly fact 0) ; pass
> (same poly fact -1); pass
> (same poly fact -2); pass
```

Rosette constructs: verify

verify searches for a binding of symbolic constants to concrete values that causes at least one assertion in expr to fail.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
    #:forall expr
    #:guarantee expr)
```

Rosette constructs: verify

verify searches for a binding of symbolic constants to concrete values that causes at least one assertion in expr to fail.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
  #:guarantee expr)
```

No! The solver finds a concrete counterexample to the assertion in same.

```
(define (poly x)
 (+ (* x x x x) (* 6 x x x))
    (* 11 \times x) (* 6 \times))
(define (fact x)
 (* \times (+ \times 1) (+ \times 2) (+ \times 2)))
(define (same p f x)
 (assert (= (p x) (f x)))
> (define-symbolic i integer?)
> (verify (same poly fact i)))
(model [i 12])
```

Rosette constructs: verify

verify searches for a binding of symbolic constants to concrete values that causes at least one assertion in expr to fail.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
  #:guarantee expr)
```

We can store bindings in variables and evaluate arbitrary expressions against them.

Do poly and fact produce the same output on all inputs?

```
(define (poly x)
 (+ (* x x x x) (* 6 x x x))
    (* 11 \times x) (* 6 \times))
(define (fact x)
 (* \times (+ \times 1) (+ \times 2) (+ \times 2)))
(define (same p f x)
 (assert (= (p x) (f x)))
> (define-symbolic i integer?)
> (define cex
    (verify (same poly fact i)))
> (evaluate i cex)
12
```

Rosette constructs: verify

verify searches for a binding of symbolic constants to concrete values that causes at least one assertion in expr to fail.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
  #:guarantee expr)
```

The assertions encountered while evaluating expr are removed from the asserts store once a query (such as verify) completes.

Do poly and fact produce the same output on all inputs?

```
(define (poly x)
 (+ (* x x x x) (* 6 x x x))
    (* 11 \times x) (* 6 \times))
(define (fact x)
 (* \times (+ \times 1) (+ \times 2) (+ \times 2)))
(define (same p f x)
 (assert (= (p x) (f x)))
> (define-symbolic i integer?)
> (define cex
    (verify (same poly fact i)))
> (asserts)
(list)
```

Rosette constructs: from verify to debug

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
    #:forall expr
    #:guarantee expr)
```

Rosette constructs: from verify to debug

debug searches for a minimal set of expressions of the given types that cause the evaluation of expr to fail.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)

(solve expr)
(synthesize
    #:forall expr
    #:guarantee expr)
```

Rosette constructs: debug

debug searches for a minimal set of expressions of the given types that cause the evaluation of expr to fail.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
    #:forall expr
    #:guarantee expr)
```

To use debug, require the debugging libraries, mark fact as the candidate for debugging, save the module to a file, and issue a debug query.

```
(require rosette/query/debug
          rosette/lib/render)
(define (poly x)
 (+ (* x x x x) (* 6 x x x))
    (* 11 \times x) (* 6 \times)))
(define/debug (fact x)
 (* \times (+ \times 1) (+ \times 2) (+ \times 2)))
(define (same p f x)
 (assert (= (p x) (f x)))
> (render; visualize the result
   (debug [integer?]
     (same poly fact 12)))
```

Rosette constructs: debug

debug searches for a minimal set of expressions of the given types that cause the evaluation of expr to fail.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
    #:forall expr
    #:guarantee expr)
```

To use debug, require the debugging libraries, mark fact as the candidate for debugging, save the module to a file, and issue a debug query.

```
(require rosette/query/debug
         rosette/lib/render)
(define (poly x)
 (+ (* x x x x) (* 6 x x x))
    (* 11 \times x) (* 6 \times)))
(define/debug (fact x)
 (* x (+ x 1) (+ x 2) (+ x 2)))
(define (same p f x)
 (assert (= (p x) (f x)))
> (render; visualize the result
   (debug [integer?]
     (same poly fact 12)))
```

Rosette constructs: from debug to solve

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
    #:forall expr
    #:guarantee expr)
```

Rosette constructs: from debug to solve

solve searches for a binding of symbolic constants to concrete values that causes all assertions in expr to pass.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
    #:forall expr
    #:guarantee expr)
```

Rosette constructs: solve

solve searches for a binding of symbolic constants to concrete values that causes all assertions in expr to pass.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
    #:forall expr
    #:guarantee expr)
```

Rosette constructs: solve

solve searches for a binding of symbolic constants to concrete values that causes all assertions in expr to pass.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
    #:forall expr
    #:guarantee expr)
```

Yes! The solver finds concrete values for c1, c2, and c3 that work for the input 12.

```
(define (poly x)
 (+ (* x x x x) (* 6 x x x))
    (* 11 \times x) (* 6 \times))
(define (fact x)
 (define-symbolic* c1 c2 c3 integer?)
 (* (+ \times c1) (+ \times 1) (+ \times c2) (+ \times c3)))
(define (same p f x)
 (assert (= (p x) (f x))))
> (solve (same poly fact 12))
(model [c1$0 3] [c2$0 2] [c3$0 0])
```

Rosette constructs: solve many with define-symbolic*

solve searches for a binding of symbolic constants to concrete values that causes all assertions in expr to pass.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
    #:forall expr
    #:guarantee expr)
```

Solving same for multiple inputs: note the behavior of **define-symbolic***.

Can we repair fact on multiple inputs individually?

```
(define (poly x)
 (+ (* x x x x) (* 6 x x x))
    (* 11 \times x) (* 6 \times)))
(define (fact x)
 (define-symbolic* c1 c2 c3 integer?)
 (* (+ \times c1) (+ \times 1) (+ \times c2) (+ \times c3)))
(define (same p f x)
 (assert (= (p x) (f x))))
> (solve (begin
           (same poly fact 12)
            (same poly fact 0)))
(model [c1$0 9] [c2$0 -4] [c3$0 3]
        [c1$1 12] [c2$1 0] [c3$1 2])
```

Rosette constructs: solve many with define-symbolic

solve searches for a binding of symbolic constants to concrete values that causes all assertions in expr to pass.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
    #:forall expr
    #:guarantee expr)
```

Solving same for multiple inputs: note the behavior of **define-symbolic**.

Can we repair fact on multiple inputs simultaneously?

```
(define (poly x)
 (+ (* x x x x) (* 6 x x x))
    (* 11 \times x) (* 6 \times))
(define (fact x)
 (define-symbolic c1 c2 c3 integer?)
 (* (+ \times c1) (+ \times 1) (+ \times c2) (+ \times c3)))
(define (same p f x)
 (assert (= (p x) (f x))))
> (solve (begin
            (same poly fact 12)
            (same poly fact 0)))
(model [c1 2] [c2 3] [c3 0])
```

Rosette constructs: from solve to synthesize

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
  #:guarantee expr)
```

synthesize searches for a binding that causes all assertions in #:guarantee expr to pass for all bindings of the symbolic constants in the #:forall expr.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
    #:forall expr
    #:guarantee expr)
```

```
(define (poly x)
 (+ (* x x x x) (* 6 x x x))
    (* 11 \times x) (* 6 \times)))
(define (fact x)
 (define-symbolic c1 c2 c3 integer?)
 (* (+ \times c1) (+ \times 1) (+ \times c2) (+ \times c3)))
(define (same p f x)
 (assert (= (p x) (f x))))
> (define-symbolic* i integer?)
> (synthesize
   #:forall i
   #:guarantee (same poly fact i))
```

synthesize searches for a binding that causes all assertions in #:guarantee expr to pass for all bindings of the symbolic constants in the #:forall expr.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
```

Yes! The solver finds concrete values for c1, c2, and c3 that work for every input i.

(synthesize

#:forall expr

#:quarantee expr)

```
(define (poly x)
 (+ (* x x x x) (* 6 x x x))
    (* 11 \times x) (* 6 \times)))
(define (fact x)
 (define-symbolic c1 c2 c3 integer?)
 (* (+ \times c1) (+ \times 1) (+ \times c2) (+ \times c3)))
(define (same p f x)
 (assert (= (p x) (f x))))
> (define-symbolic* i integer?)
> (synthesize
   #:forall i
   #:guarantee (same poly fact i))
(model [c1 3] [c2 2] [c3 0])
```

synthesize searches for a binding that causes all assertions in #:guarantee expr to pass for all bindings of the symbolic constants in the #:forall expr.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
```

To generate code, require the sketching library, save the module to a file, and issue a synthesize query.

#:quarantee expr)

```
(require rosette/lib/synthax)
(define (poly x)
 (+ (* x x x x) (* 6 x x x))
    (* 11 \times x) (* 6 \times))
(define (fact x)
 (* (+ x (??)) (+ x 1) (+ x (??)) (+ x (??))))
(define (same p f x)
 (assert (= (p x) (f x)))
> (define-symbolic* i integer?)
> (print-forms ; print the generated code
   (synthesize
   #:forall i
    #:guarantee (same poly fact i)))
```

synthesize searches for a binding that causes all assertions in #:guarantee expr to pass for all bindings of the symbolic constants in the #:forall expr.

```
(define-symbolic id type)
(define-symbolic* id type)

(assert expr)

(verify expr)
(debug [type ...+] expr)
(solve expr)
(synthesize
  #:forall expr
```

To generate code, require the sketching library, save the module to a file, and issue a synthesize query.

#:quarantee expr)

```
(require rosette/lib/synthax)
(define (poly x)
 (+ (* x x x x) (* 6 x x x))
    (* 11 \times x) (* 6 \times))
(define (fact x)
 (* (+ x 3) (+ x 1) (+ x 2) (+ x 0)))
(define (same p f x)
 (assert (= (p x) (f x)))
> (define-symbolic* i integer?)
> (print-forms ; print the generated code
   (synthesize
   #:forall i
    #:guarantee (same poly fact i)))
```

RUSETTE

A programming model that integrates solvers into the language, providing constructs for program verification, synthesis, and more.

Solver-aided programming in two parts: (I) getting started and (2) going pro

How to use a solver-aided language: the workflow, constructs, and gotchas.

How to build your own solver-aided language via direct symbolic evaluation or language embedding.

Common pitfalls and gotchas

Reasoning precision
Unbounded loops
Unsafe features



"A gotcha is a valid construct in a system, program or programming language that works as documented but is counter-intuitive and almost invites mistakes because it is both easy to invoke and unexpected or unreasonable in its outcome."

—Wikipedia

Reasoning precision

Unbounded loops

- Determines if integers and reals are approximated using k-bit words or treated as infinite-precision values.
- Controlled by setting current-bitwidth to an integer k > 0 or #f for approximate or precise reasoning, respectively.

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(model [x 64])
> (verify (assert (not (= x 64))))
(model [x 64])
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Reasoning precision

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Unsafe features

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So why not default to #f?

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Reasoning precision

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So why not default to #f? Performance and decidability.

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(unsat)
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(model [x 64])
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Reasoning precision
Unbounded loops

- Loops and recursion must be bounded (aka self-finitizing) by
 - concrete termination conditions, or
 - upper bounds on size of iterated (symbolic) data structures.
- Unbounded loops and recursion run forever.

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(define (search x xs)
  (cond
    [(null? xs) #f]
    [(equal? x (car xs)) #t]
    [else (search x (cdr xs))]))
> (define-symbolic xs integer? [5])
> (define-symbolic xl i integer?)
> (define ys (take xs xl))
> (verify
   (when (<= 0 i (- \times l 1))
     (assert (search (list-ref ys i) ys))))
```

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(unsat) _
           Terminates because search
           iterates over a bounded structure.
```

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```
(define (ticker state)
  (lambda (msg)
    (if msg (ticker (+ 1 state)) state)))
(define (ff t k)
  (if (> k 0))
      (ff (t #t) (- k 1))
      t))
> (current-bitwidth #f)
> (define-symbolic s k integer?)
> (verify
   (let ([t (ticker s)])
     (assert (= ((ff t k) #f)
                 (+ (max 0 k) (t #f))))))
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      (let ([t (ticker s)])
        (assert (= ((ff t k) #f)
Unbounded because (+ (max 0 k) (t #f)))))
ff termination
depends on k.
```

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(define (ticker state)
  (lambda (msg)
    (if msg (ticker (+ 1 state)) state)))
(define (ff t k g)
                      Bound the recursion
                      with a concrete guard.
  (assert (> g 0)
  (if (> k 0))
      (ff (t #t) (- k 1) (- q 1))
      t))
> (current-bitwidth #f)
> (define-symbolic s k integer?)
> (verify
   (let ([t (ticker s)])
     (assert (= ((ff t k 5) #f)
                (+ (max 0 k) (t #f))))))
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(model [s -4] [k 5])
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   (when (< k 5)
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(unsat)
```

- Rosette lifts only a core subset of Racket to operate on symbolic values. This includes all constructs #lang rosette/safe
- Unlifted constructs can be used in #lang rosette but require care: the programmer must determine when it is okay for symbolic values to flow to unlifted code.

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> (define v (vector 1 2))
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> (vector-ref v k)
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A programming model that integrates solvers into the language, providing constructs for program verification, synthesis, and more.



emina.github.io/rosette/

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