

# Automated Deductive Verification of Probabilistic Programs

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*PhD Defense*

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# Deductive Program Verification

**Deductive Program Verification**  
**=**  
**mathematically prove that programs do not fail**

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**Why?**

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**Why? Because software is ubiquitous!**



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Why? Because software is ubiquitous!



Software bugs cost **tremendous amounts of money** and have caused **human deaths**.

# Probabilistic programs

**Probabilistic programs = imperative while-programs + coin flips**

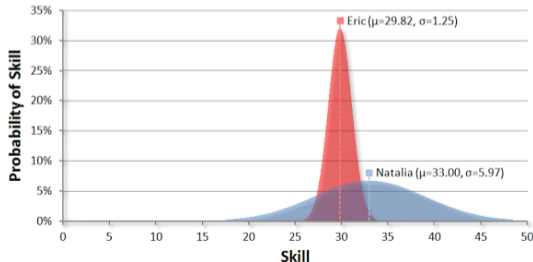
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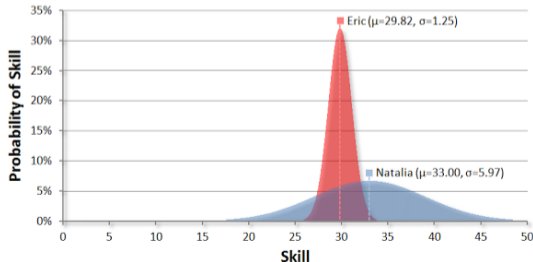
## Machine Learning



Probabilistic programs = imperative while-programs + coin flips

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### Machine Learning



### Security



**The Bounded Retransmission Protocol** [Helmink et al. '93, D'Argenio et al. '97]

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Allow for at most  $M = 10$  retransmissions per packet.

```
sent := 0; failed := 0;
```

```
while (sent <  $N \wedge$  failed  $\leq M$ ) do
```

```
  { failed := failed + 1 } [0.01] { failed := 0; sent := sent + 1 }
```

failed transmission                      successful transmission

```
end
```



## Outline & High-Level Goals

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### Outline:

The Weakest Preexpectation Calculus

Relatively Complete Verification [POPL '21]

Latticed  $k$ -Induction [CAV '21]

Inductive Synthesis of Inductive Invariants [TACAS '23]

Property Directed Reachability [CAV '20]

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1. Provide theoretical foundations for automated deductive verifiers

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### High-Level Contributions:

1. Provide theoretical **foundations for automated deductive verifiers**
2. Advance the state-of-the-art for the **fully automatic verification of loops**

# The Weakest Preexpectation Calculus

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What is the **expected final value** of a program variable?

What is the **probability** of reaching a given final state?

## The Weakest Preexpectation Calculus

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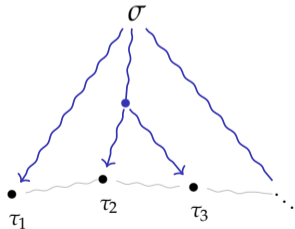
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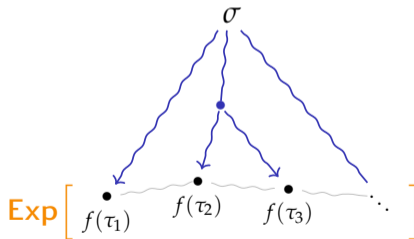


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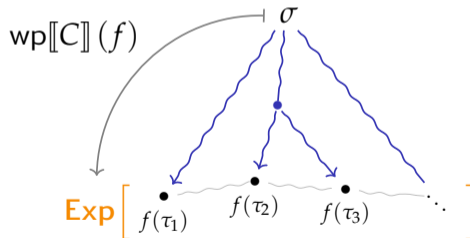


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$$\begin{aligned} \text{wp}[\{\text{skip}\} [1/2] \{x := x + 2\}](x) &= 1/2 \cdot x + 1/2 \cdot (x + 2) = x + 1 \\ \text{wp}[\{\text{skip}\} [1/2] \{x := x + 2\}](x = 4) & \end{aligned}$$

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<code>skip</code>	$f$
<code><math>x := a</math></code>	$f[x/a]$
<code><math>C_1; C_2</math></code>	$\text{wp} \llbracket C_1 \rrbracket (\text{wp} \llbracket C_2 \rrbracket (f))$
<code><math>\{C_1\} [p] \{C_2\}</math></code>	$p \cdot \text{wp} \llbracket C_1 \rrbracket (f) + (1 - p) \cdot \text{wp} \llbracket C_2 \rrbracket (f)$
<code><math>\text{if } (\varphi) \{C_1\} \text{ else } \{C_2\}</math></code>	$[\varphi] \cdot \text{wp} \llbracket C_1 \rrbracket (f) + [\neg\varphi] \cdot \text{wp} \llbracket C_2 \rrbracket (f)$
<code><math>\text{while } (\varphi) \{body\}</math></code>	$\text{lfp } \lambda h. [\neg\varphi] \cdot f + [\varphi] \cdot \text{wp} \llbracket body \rrbracket (h)$

The lfp is taken w.r.t.  $\sqsubseteq$  on expectations.

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Verification of loops is tackled via **quantitative loop invariants**.

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$\text{wp}[\text{while}(\varphi)\{ \textit{body} \}](f) = \text{lfp } \Phi_f$ , where

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Theorem (Park Induction for Loops [Kaminski '19])

Let  $I \in \mathbb{E}$ . We have

$$\underbrace{\Phi_f(I) \sqsubseteq I}_{I \text{ is inductive loop invariant}} \quad \textit{implies} \quad \text{wp}[\text{while}(\varphi)\{\textit{body}\}](f) \sqsubseteq I.$$

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Loop invariants reduce reasoning about loops to **reasoning about one loop iteration.**

$\text{wp}[\text{while } (y = 1) \{ y := 0 \ [1/2] \ x := x + 1 \}](x)$

$$\text{wp}[\text{while } (y = 1) \{ y := 0 \ [1/2] \ x := x + 1 \}](x) \sqsubseteq [y \neq 1] \cdot x + [y = 1] \cdot (x + 1)$$

$$\text{wp}[\text{while } (y = 1) \{ y := 0 \ [1/2] \ x := x + 1 \}](x) \sqsubseteq \underbrace{[y \neq 1] \cdot x + [y = 1] \cdot (x + 1)}_{\text{candidate invariant } I}$$

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```
while(y = 1) {  
  
  {y := 0} [1/2] {x := x + 1}  
  // [y ≠ 1] · x + [y = 1] · (x + 1)  
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---

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`}`

1. Compute  $\Phi_x(I)$

2. Check  $\Phi_x(I) \sqsubseteq I$  via SMT

---

$$\Phi_x(I) = [y \neq 1] \cdot x + [y = 1] \cdot \text{wp}[\text{body}](I)$$

$$= [y \neq 1] \cdot x + [y = 1] \cdot (1/2 \cdot (x + [y \neq 1] \cdot (x + 1) + [y = 1] \cdot (x + 2))) \sqsubseteq I \checkmark$$

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$\{C_1\} [p] \{C_2\}$	$p \cdot \text{wp} \llbracket C_1 \rrbracket (f) + (1 - p) \cdot \text{wp} \llbracket C_2 \rrbracket (f)$
if ( $\varphi$ ) $\{C_1\}$ else $\{C_2\}$	$[\varphi] \cdot \text{wp} \llbracket C_1 \rrbracket (f) + [\neg\varphi] \cdot \text{wp} \llbracket C_2 \rrbracket (f)$
while ( $\varphi$ ) $\{body\}$	$\text{lfp } \lambda h. [\neg\varphi] \cdot f + [\varphi] \cdot \text{wp} \llbracket body \rrbracket (h)$

where  $f: \text{States} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^{\infty}$

**What is a suitable syntax for expectations?**

# Relatively Complete Verification [POPL '21]

Goal: Provide a quantitative assertion language for deductive verifiers.

### Ordinary Programs

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**We provide a simple, yet expressive, language of expectations.**

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[Flajolet, Pelletier, Soria '09]

```
 $x := \text{geometric}(1/4); y := \text{geometric}(1/4);$   
 $\{t := x + y + 1\} [5/9] \{t := x + y\};$   
 $r := 1;$   
repeat 3 times {  
    draw sequence of  $2 \cdot t$  coin flips;  
    if ( $\#\text{heads} \neq \#\text{tails}$ )  $\{r := 0\};$   
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**Simple postexpectations can yield irrational, non-algebraic,... preexpectations**

### Arithmetic Expressions:

$$a \longrightarrow q \in \mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0} \mid \underbrace{x \in \text{Vars}}_{\mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0}\text{-valued}} \mid a + a \mid a \cdot a \mid a \dot{-} a$$

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### Theorem (POPL '21)

The language  $\text{Exp}$  is expressive, i.e.,

$$\forall \text{ programs } C: \forall f \in \text{Exp}: \text{wp}[[C]](f) \in \text{Exp}.$$

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By induction on  $C$ . **Most intricate part: loops.**

Combines Gödel's  $\beta$ -function [Gödel 1931] with Dedekind cuts [Bertrand 1849]. □

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**Exp is the basis of our modern automated deductive verifier CAESAR [OOPSLA '23].**

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1. **Latticed  $k$ -Induction [CAV '21]**
2. **Inductive Synthesis of Inductive Invariants [TACAS '23]**
3. **Property Directed Reachability [CAV '20]**

## Automatic Verification of Loops - The Challenge

---

$\text{wp}[\text{while}(\varphi)\{body\}](f) = \text{lfp } \Phi_f$ , where

$$\Phi_f: \mathbb{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{E}, \quad \Phi_f(h) = [\neg\varphi] \cdot f + [\varphi] \cdot \text{wp}[\text{body}](h)$$

Theorem (Park Induction for Loops [Kaminski '19])

Let  $I \in \mathbb{E}$ . We have

$$\underbrace{\Phi_f(I) \sqsubseteq I}_{I \text{ is inductive loop invariant}} \quad \text{implies} \quad \text{wp}[\text{while}(\varphi)\{body\}](f) \sqsubseteq I.$$

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**Problem: The converse direction does not hold in general!**

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**We generalize  $k$ -induction to make it applicable to probabilistic programs,  
probabilistic pushdown systems, stochastic games, ...**

Given: Complete lattice  $(D, \sqsubseteq)$ , monotonic  $\Phi: D \rightarrow D$ , and  $I \in D$

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Leveraged by:

- ▶ [Winkler & Katoen '23]: Probabilistic Pushdown Automata
- ▶ [Yang et al. '24]: Static Analysis of Probabilistic Programs

Given:  $(\mathbb{E}, \sqsubseteq)$  and  $\Phi_f: \mathbb{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{E}$  (obtained from  $C = \text{while}(\varphi)\{body\}$  and  $f$ ),  $I \in \mathbb{E}$

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### Corollary ( $k$ -Induction for Probabilistic Programs [CAV '21])

- ▶ 1-induction:  $\Phi_f(I) \sqsubseteq I$  implies  $\text{wp}[[C]](f) \sqsubseteq I$
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**$k$ -inductivity is decidable for linear loop and piecewise linear expectations.**

### The Bounded Retransmission Protocol [Helmink et al. '93, D'Argenio et al. '97]

Goal: Send file of  $N$  packets via lossy channel.

Transmitting a packet fails with probability  $0.1$ .

Allow for at most  $M$  retransmissions per packet.

$$\text{while} (sent < N \wedge failed \leq M) \{$$
$$\underbrace{\{ failed := failed + 1; totalFailed := totalFailed + 1 \}}_{\text{failed transmission}} [0.1] \underbrace{\{ failed := 0; sent := sent + 1 \}}_{\text{successful transmission}} \}$$

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Our tool proves

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**fully automatically** by means of 4-induction.

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**Solution: Invariant synthesis**

# Inductive Synthesis of Inductive Invariants [TACAS '23]

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Template Generator

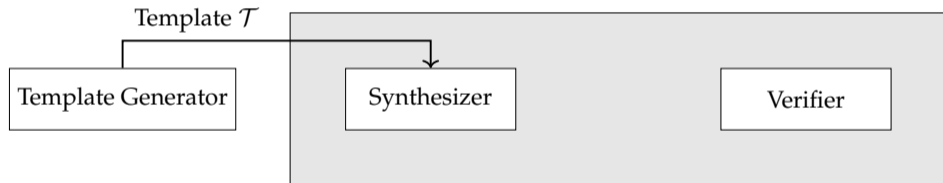
Synthesizer

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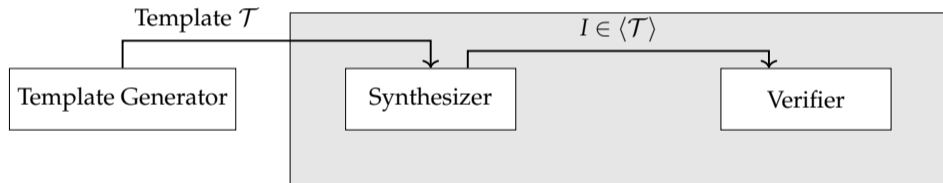


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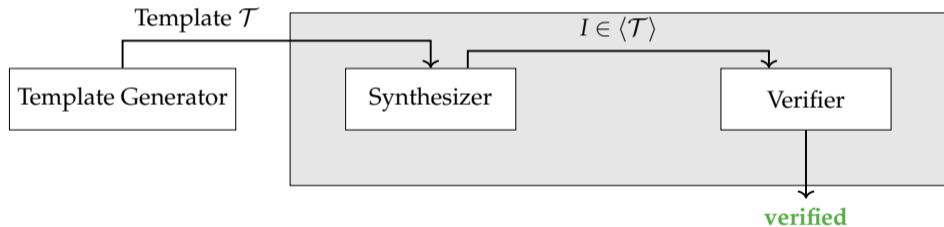
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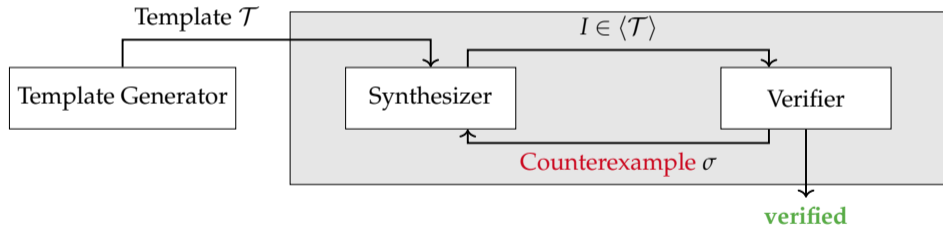
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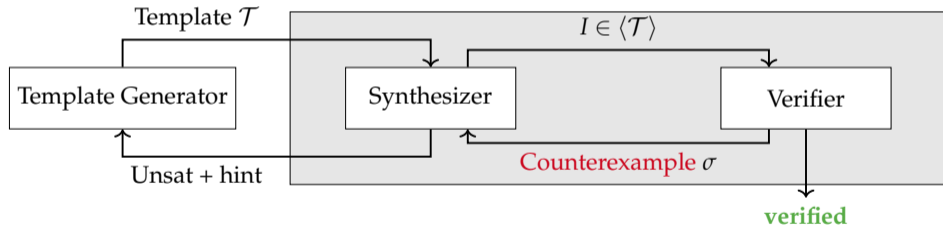
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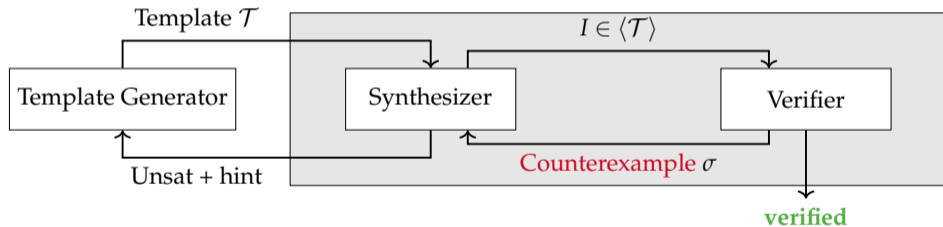
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$$\mathcal{T} = [y = 0 \wedge x < 3] \cdot (\alpha_1 \cdot x + \beta_1 \cdot y + \gamma_1) + [y = 0 \wedge x \geq 3 \wedge x \leq 6] \cdot (\alpha_2 \cdot x + \beta_2 \cdot y + \gamma_2)$$

**The Bounded Retransmission Protocol** [Helmink et al. '93, D'Argenio et al. '97]

Goal: Send file of  $N = 8 \cdot 10^9$  packets via lossy channel.

Transmitting a packet fails with probability 0.01.

Allow for at most  $M = 10$  retransmissions per packet.

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sent := 0; failed := 0;
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Our tool proves  $\text{wp}[[C]] ([failed > M]) \sqsubseteq 0.001$  in 11 seconds.

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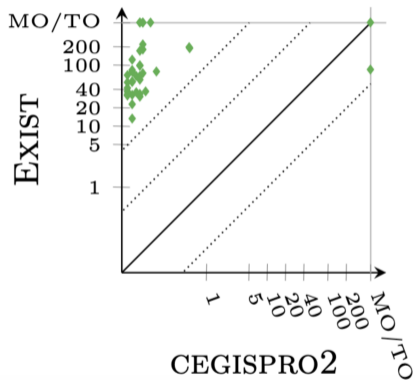
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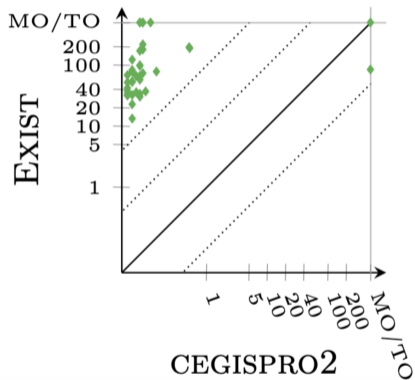
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**Automatic deductive program verification  
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Mostly **infinite-state** programs from [Bao et al. '22] (TO=5min, MO=8gb)



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**Our approach is competitive with the state-of-the-art invariant synthesis techniques.**

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- ▶ **Recent advances by [Kori et al. '22,'23]. Future work: Join forces!**

1. **Computing Sampling Times** [ESOP '18]
2. **Quantitative Separation Logic** [POPL '19]
3. **Property Directed Reachability** [CAV '20]
4. **Generating Functions for PPs** [LOPSTR '21]
5. **Relatively Complete Verification** [POPL '21]
6. **Latticed  $k$ -Induction** [CAV '21]
7. **Entailment Checking in QSL** [ESOP '22]
8. **Weighted Programming** [OOPSLA '22]
9. **Amortized Expected Runtimes** [POPL '23]
10. **Invariant Synthesis** [TACAS '23]
11. **Verification Infrastructure for PPs** [OOPSLA '23]
12. **Programmatic Strategy Synthesis** [POPL '24]
13. **J.-P.: MDP. FP. PP** [Festschrift JPK]
14. **Verifying Continuous Programs** [under sub.]
15. **Quant. Quantifier Elimination** [under sub.]

## Conclusion

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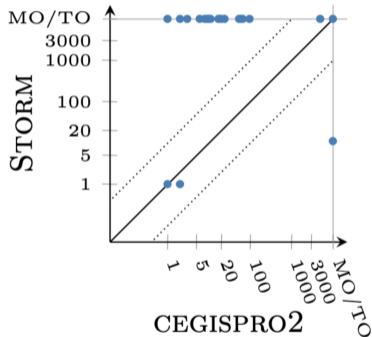
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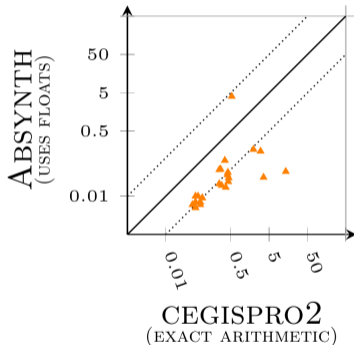
**Thank you!**  
**Arigato gozaimasu!**

## Finite-State Programs (Runtimes in seconds. TO=2h, MO=8gb)



Invariant synthesis can advance the state-of-the-art in probabilistic model checking.

Upper-bounding expected runtimes Programs from [Ngo et al. '18] (TO=5min, MO=8gb)



*cegipro2* can compute ERTs of infinite-state programs.  
Bounds are of similar quality. No floating-point issues.

Prog	$ S $	STORM				CEGISPRO2										
		SP	DD	BEST	INDUCT.-GUIDED				STATIC				DYNAMIC			
					$ S' $	$ I $	$t_s\%$	t	$ S' $	$ I $	$t_s\%$	t	$ S' $	$ I $	$t_s\%$	t
boundedrwmultistep	$1 \cdot 10^5$	MO	TO	3	33	10	40	3	-	-	-	TO	-	-	-	TO
		MO	TO	10	55	16	36	10	-	-	-	TO	-	-	-	TO
		MO	TO	-	-	-	-	TO	-	-	-	TO	-	-	-	TO
brp	$1 \cdot 10^{10}$	MO	TO	11	56	23	40	11	70	10	35	18	-	-	-	TO
		MO	TO	54	138	42	63	253	125	17	27	54	-	-	-	TO
		MO	TO	56	104	41	54	111	122	17	30	56	-	-	-	TO
brpfinitefamily	$16 \cdot 10^{13}$	TO	TO	8	53	7	72	10	67	7	44	8	54	9	52	29
		TO	TO	17	64	13	74	17	215	19	66	373	-	-	-	TO
		TO	TO	18	68	12	68	18	231	19	80	731	-	-	-	TO