

Improving Software Quality using Automatic Invariant Discovery and Program Repair

ThanhVu (Vu) Nguyen





Software Bugs



World of
Warcraft bug



Therac-25
machines
X-rays overdose



Ariane-5 rocket
self-destructs



North America
blackout



– Mozilla Developer

*“Everyday, almost **300** bugs appear [...] far too many for only the Mozilla programmers to handle.”*

Software bugs annually cost **0.6%** of the U.S GDP and **\$312** billion to the global economy

Average time to fix a security-critical error:

28 days



Automated program analysis techniques and tools can decrease debugging time by an average of 26% and \$41 billion annually

Program Verification



Check if a program meets a given specification

Program Repair



Fix a buggy program to satisfy a given specification

Invariant Generation

```
def intdiv(x, y):  
    q = 0  
    r = x  
    while r ≥ y:  
        a = 1  
        b = y  
        while [??] r ≥ 2b:  
            a = 2a  
            b = 2b  
        r = r - b  
        q = q + a  
        [??]  
    return q
```

- Discover **invariant properties** at certain program locations
- Answer the question *“what does this program do ?”*

Invariant Generation

```
def intdiv(x, y):  
    q = 0  
    r = x  
    while r ≥ y:  
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        q = q + a  
    [??]  
    return q
```

- Discover **invariant properties** at certain program locations
- Answer the question *“what does this program do ?”*

Automatic Program Repair

```
def intdiv(x, y):  
    q = 0  
    r = x  
    while r ≥ y:  
        a = 1  
        b = y 3*y  
        while r ≥ 2b:  
            a = 2a  
            b = 2b  
        r = r - b  
        q = q + a -2*a  
    return q
```

- **Localize** errors and **modify** code to fix bugs
- A form of *program synthesis*

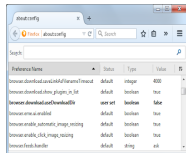
Core Research Areas



Invariant Discovery



Program Repair



Configurable System

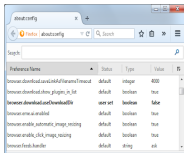
Core Research Areas



Invariant Discovery



Program Repair



Configurable System

New Research Directions

```
makefile
RM := rm -rf
TARGET := hello
OBJ := hello.o
SRC := hello.c

all: $(TARGET)

$(TARGET): $(OBJ) $(SRC)
@echo 'Building $(TARGET)'
@gcc -o $(TARGET) $(OBJ)
@echo 'Built Successfully'

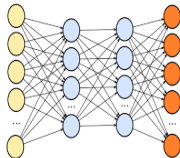
%.o: %.c
@echo 'building $@ from $<'
@gcc -o $@ -c $<

clean:
$(RM) $(OBJ) $(TARGET)
```

Unix Build Systems



IoT systems



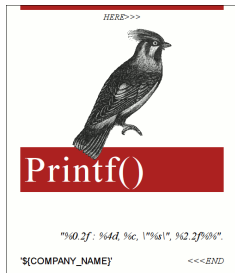
AI-generated Software

Outline

- SE/PL Research
 - Invariant Generation
 - Automatic Program Repair
 - Highly-Configurable Systems

- Current/New Research Works

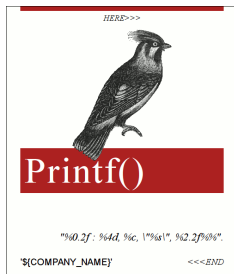
How We Analyze Programs



```
File Edit Options Buffers Tools Help
def intdiv(x, y):
    q = 0
    r = x
    while r >= y:
        a = 1
        b = y
        while r >= 2*b:
            a = 2 * a
            b = 2 * b
        r = r - b
        q = q + a
    print "x %d, y %d, q %d, r %d" %(x,y,q,r)
    return q,r
-U:--- intdiv.py All (18,0) (Python)--5: -U:--- intdiv.traces All (21,0)
```

x	0,	y	1,	q	0,	r	0
x	1,	y	1,	q	1,	r	0
x	1,	y	5,	q	0,	r	1
x	1,	y	10,	q	0,	r	1
x	3,	y	1,	q	3,	r	0
x	3,	y	4,	q	0,	r	3
x	3,	y	7,	q	0,	r	3
x	8,	y	1,	q	8,	r	0
x	8,	y	2,	q	4,	r	0
x	8,	y	9,	q	0,	r	8
x	8,	y	10,	q	0,	r	8
x	15,	y	1,	q	15,	r	0
x	15,	y	5,	q	3,	r	0
x	15,	y	7,	q	2,	r	1
x	20,	y	2,	q	10,	r	0
x	20,	y	7,	q	2,	r	6
x	20,	y	10,	q	2,	r	0
x	100,	y	1,	q	100,	r	0
x	100,	y	5,	q	20,	r	0
x	100,	y	10,	q	10,	r	0

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```

```
File Edit Options Buffers Tools Python Help
def intdiv(x, y):
    assert y != 0
    # .. compute result ..
    assert r >= 0
    assert x >= q
    return q,r
--:--- intdiv.py All (11,0)
```



UDACITY

– Software Testing course

*"GCC: 9000 assertions,
LLVM: 13,000 assertions [..]
1 assertion per 110 loc"*

“program invariants are asserted properties, such as relations among variables, at certain locations in a program”



```
assert(x == 2*y);  
assert(0 <= idx < |arr|);
```

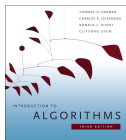
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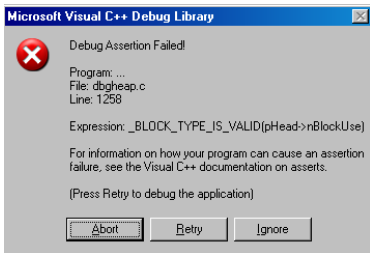
```
assert(x == 2*y);  
assert(0 <= idx < |arr|);
```



```
int getDateOfMonth(int m){  
    /*pre: 1 <= m <= 12*/  
    ...  
    /*post: 0 <= result <= 31*/  
}
```



“a loop invariant is a condition that is true on entry into a loop and is guaranteed to remain true on every iteration of the loop [..]”



Uses

- Understand and verify programs
- Formal proofs
- Debug (locate errors)
- Documentations

Approaches to Finding Invariants

```
int intdiv(int x, int y){
  int q=0; int r=x;
  while(r ≥ y){
    int a=1; int b=y;
    while[L](r ≥ 2*b){
      a = 2*a; b = 2*b;
    }
    r=r-b; q=q+a;
  }
  return q;
}
```

Static Analysis

- Analyze source code directly
- Pros: guaranteed results
- Cons: computationally intensive, infer simple invariants

Approaches to Finding Invariants

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    }
    r=r-b; q=q+a;
  }
  return q;
}
```

x	y	q	r
0	1	0	0
1	1	1	0
3	4	0	3
8	1	8	0
15	5	3	0
20	2	10	0
100	1	100	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮

Static Analysis

- Analyze source code directly
- Pros: guaranteed results
- Cons: computationally intensive, infer simple invariants

Dynamic Analysis

- Analyze program traces
- Pros: fast, source code not required
- Cons: results depend on traces, might not hold for all runs

Example

```
int intdiv(int x, int y){
    assert(x>0 && y>0);
    int q=0; int r=x;
    while(r ≥ y){
        int a=1;
        int b=y;
        while[L](r ≥ 2*b){
            a = 2*a;
            b = 2*b;
        }
        r=r-b;
        q=q+a;
    }
    return q;
}
```

Example

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int intdiv(int x, int y){
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    int b=y;
    while[L](r ≥ 2*b){
      a = 2*a;
      b = 2*b;
    }
    r=r-b;
    q=q+a;
  }
  return q;
}
```

x	y		a	b	q	r
15	2		1	2	0	15
15	2		2	4	0	15
15	2		1	2	4	7
4	1		1	1	0	4
4	1		2	2	0	4

Invariants at L: $b = ya$, $x = qy + r$, $r \geq 2ya$

DIG discovers polynomial relations of the forms

Equalities $c_0 + c_1x_1 + c_2x_n + c_3x_1x_2 + \cdots + c_mx_1^{d_1} \cdots x_n^{d_n} = 0$

Inequalities $c_0 + c_1x_1 + c_2x_n + c_3x_1x_2 + \cdots + c_mx_1^{d_1} \cdots x_n^{d_n} \geq 0, \quad c_i \in \mathbb{R}$

Examples

cubic $z - 6n = 6, \quad \frac{1}{12}z^2 - y - \frac{1}{2}z = -1$

extended gcd $\gcd(a, b) = ia + jb$

sqrt $x + \varepsilon \geq y^2 \geq x - \varepsilon$

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sqrt $x + \varepsilon \geq y^2 \geq x - \varepsilon$

Method

- **Equalities:** solve equations
- **Inequalities:** construct polyhedra

Example

```
int intdiv(int x, int y){
  assert(x>0 && y>0);
  int q=0; int r=x;
  while(r ≥ y){
    int a=1;
    int b=y;
    while[L](r ≥ 2*b){
      a = 2*a;
      b = 2*b;
    }
    r=r-b;
    q=q+a;
  }
  return q;
}
```

x	y		a	b	q	r
15	2		1	2	0	15
15	2		2	4	0	15
15	2		1	2	4	7
4	1		1	1	0	4
4	1		2	2	0	4

Invariants at L: $b = ya$, $x = qy + r$, $r \geq 2ya$

Finding Nonlinear Equations using Linear Equation Solving

x	y	a	b	q	r
15	2	1	2	0	15
15	2	2	4	0	15
15	2	1	2	4	7
4	1	1	1	0	4
4	1	2	2	0	4

Finding Nonlinear Equations using Linear Equation Solving

- Terms and degrees

$$V = \{r, y, a\}; \text{ deg} = 2$$

↓

$$T = \{1, r, y, a, ry, ra, ya, r^2, y^2, a^2\}$$

x	y		a	b	q	r
15	2		1	2	0	15
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15	2		1	2	4	7
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Finding Nonlinear Equations using Linear Equation Solving

- Terms and degrees

$$V = \{r, y, a\}; \text{ deg} = 2$$

↓

$$T = \{1, r, y, a, ry, ra, ya, r^2, y^2, a^2\}$$

$$T = \{\dots, \log(r), a^y, \sin(y), \dots\}$$

x	y	a	b	q	r
15	2	1	2	0	15
15	2	2	4	0	15
15	2	1	2	4	7
4	1	1	1	0	4
4	1	2	2	0	4

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- Nonlinear equation template

$$c_1 + c_2 r + c_3 y + c_4 a + c_5 ry + c_6 ra + c_7 ya + c_8 r^2 + c_9 y^2 + c_{10} a^2 = 0$$

x	y	a	b	q	r
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Finding Nonlinear Equations using Linear Equation Solving

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4	1	1	1	0	4
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$$c_1 + c_2 r + c_3 y + c_4 a + c_5 ry + c_6 ra + c_7 ya + c_8 r^2 + c_9 y^2 + c_{10} a^2 = 0$$

- System of **linear** equations

$$\text{trace 1} : \{r = 15, y = 2, a = 1\}$$

$$\text{eq 1} : c_1 + 15c_2 + 2c_3 + c_4 + 30c_5 + 15c_6 + 2c_7 + 225c_8 + 4c_9 + c_{10} = 0$$

⋮

Finding Nonlinear Equations using Linear Equation Solving

- Terms and degrees

$$V = \{r, y, a\}; \text{ deg} = 2$$

↓

$$T = \{1, r, y, a, ry, ra, ya, r^2, y^2, a^2\}$$

x	y		a	b	q	r
15	2		1	2	0	15
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- Nonlinear equation template

$$c_1 + c_2 r + c_3 y + c_4 a + c_5 ry + c_6 ra + c_7 ya + c_8 r^2 + c_9 y^2 + c_{10} a^2 = 0$$

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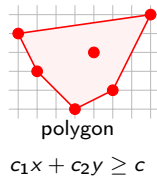
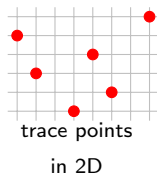
- Solve for coefficients c_i

$$V = \{x, y, a, b, q, r\}; \text{ deg} = 2 \quad \longrightarrow \quad b = ya, x = qy + r$$

Geometric Invariant Inference

x	y
-2	1
-1	-1
1	-3
2	0
3	-2
5	2

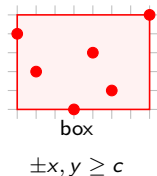
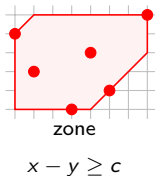
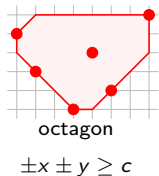
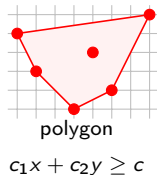
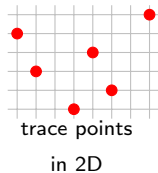
program traces



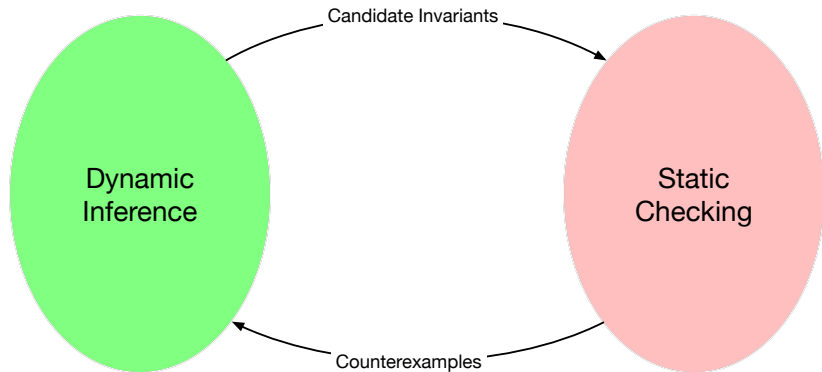
Geometric Invariant Inference

x	y
-2	1
-1	-1
1	-3
2	0
3	-2
5	2

program traces



Iterative Invariant Generation



- **Dynamic Analysis:** learn *candidate* invariants from execution traces
- **Static Analysis:** use *theorem proving* and *constraint solving* to check invariants against program code and return *counterexample inputs*

Complexity Analysis

`void triple(int M, int N, int P){` Complexity of this program?

```
    assert (0 <= M);
    assert (0 <= N);
    assert (0 <= P);
    int i = 0, j = 0, k = 0;
    int t = 0;
    while(i < N){
        j = 0; t++;
        while(j < M){
            j++; k = i; t++;
            while (k < P){
                k++; t++;
            }
            i = k;
        }
        i++;
    }
    [L]
}
```

- Use `t` to count loop iterations

Complexity Analysis

```
void triple(int M, int N, int P){
    assert (0 <= M);
    assert (0 <= N);
    assert (0 <= P);
    int i = 0, j = 0, k = 0;
    int t = 0;
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            j++; k = i; t++;
            while (k < P){
                k++; t++;
            }
            i = k;
        }
        i++;
    }
    [L]
}
```

Complexity of this program?

- Use `t` to count loop iterations
- At first glance: $t = O(MNP)$

Complexity Analysis

```
void triple(int M, int N, int P){
    assert (0 <= M);
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    int i = 0, j = 0, k = 0;
    int t = 0;
    while(i < N){
        j = 0; t++;
        while(j < M){
            j++; k = i; t++;
            while (k < P){
                k++; t++;
            }
            i = k;
        }
        i++;
    }
    [L]
}
```

Complexity of this program?

- Use t to count loop iterations
- At first glance: $t = O(MNP)$
- Dlg found an interesting (and unexpected) nonlinear invariant at L :

$$\begin{aligned} &P^2Mt + PM^2t - PMNt - M^2Nt - \\ &PMt^2 + MNt^2 + PMt - PNt - 2MNt + \\ &Pt^2 + Mt^2 + Nt^2 - t^3 - Nt + t^2 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Complexity Analysis

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    int t = 0;
    while(i < N){
        j = 0; t++;
        while(j < M){
            j++; k = i; t++;
            while (k < P){
                k++; t++;
            }
            i = k;
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```

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- Use t to count loop iterations
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- Solve for t yields the **most precise, unpublished** bound:

$$\begin{array}{ll} t = 0 & \text{when } N = 0, \\ t = P + M + 1 & \text{when } N \leq P, \\ t = N - M(P - N) & \text{when } N > P \end{array}$$

Applications

Security

- *complexity* and *side-channel attacks* (FSE'17, ASE'17, SEAD Workshop '20)
- AES analysis (ICSE'12, TOSEM'13)

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Others

- *termination/liveness* (OOPSLA'20)
- *heap/pointer* (PLDI'19)
- *program (API) synthesis* (OOPSLA'19)
- *disjunctive/geometric invs* (ICSE'14, J. Automated Reasoning'13)

Applications

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Highly-Configurable Systems: iGen (FSE '16), GenTree (ICSE '21)

Outline

- SE/PL Research
 - Invariant Generation
 - Automatic Program Repair
 - Highly-Configurable Systems

- Current/New Research Works

Zune Bug



Zune Bug



Wed morning, Dec 31, 2008: Microsoft [Zune](#) music players mysteriously froze

Zune Bug



Wed morning, Dec 31, 2008: Microsoft Zune music players mysteriously froze

 – Matt Akers (Microsoft Zune spokesman)

“By [Thursday] you should allow the battery to fully run out of power before the unit can restart successfully, then simply ensure that your device is recharged, then turn it back on”

Zune Bug

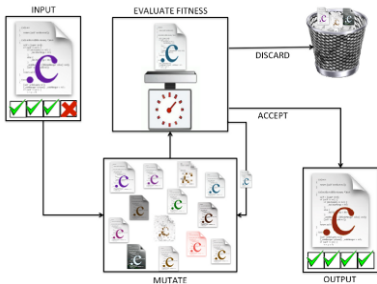
```
int zunebug(int days) {
    int year = 1980;
    while (days > 365) {
        if (isLeapYear(year)){
            if (days > 366) {
                days -= 366;
                year += 1;
            }
        }
        else {
            days -= 365;
            year += 1;
        }
    }
    return year;
}
```

Zune Bug

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}
```

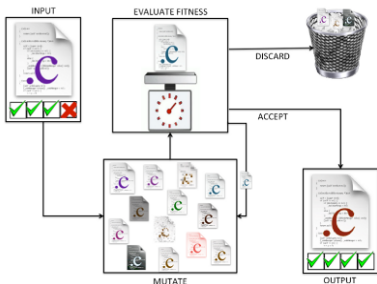
```
int zunebug_repair(int days) {
    int year = 1980;
    while (days > 365) {
        if (isLeapYear(year)){
            if (days > 366) {
                // days -= 366; // repair deletes
                year += 1;
            }
            days -= 366; // repair inserts
        } else {
            days -= 365;
            year += 1;
        }
    }
    return year;
}
```

GenProg: Program Repair using Genetic Algorithm



- 1 Isolate faults
- 2 Mutate program statements and reuse existing code
- 3 Check repair candidates

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Results

- demonstrated on bugs in real-world software (repair 16 programs over 1.25 MLocs, 2 mins avg)
- 10-year **Most Influential Paper** award (ICSE '19) and 10-year **Most Impact Paper** award (GECCO '19)

APR Techniques

- *Evolutionary computing* (ICSE'09, GECCO'09, ICST'09, CACM'10, TSE'13)
- *Theory and Formal Analysis: equivalence* between program repair and reachability, apply input generation techniques to repair programs (TACAS'17)

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Non-traditional Repairs

- Corrupted *data structures* (Google Summer of Code'18, FSE JPF Workshop'18)
- *Fault localization* in declarative models (ICSE '21)
- Repair *declarative* programs (ICSE '21)

Outline

- SE/PL Research
 - Invariant Generation
 - Automatic Program Repair
 - Highly-Configurable Systems

- Current/New Research Works

Analyzing Configurable Software

Modern software are highly-configurable

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Analyzing Configurable Software

Modern software are highly-configurable

- Allowing for customization and flexibility
- But can have **misconfigurations** (rank 6th on 2020 OWASP list of most critical security risks)



```
# a. ~/.htaccess
<Limit
  PUT DELETE TRACE
  ..
</Limit>

# b. /etc/apache/httpd.conf
RewriteCond TRACE
..

# c. load mod_rewrite
a2enmod mod_rewrite

# d. /etc/apache/httpd.conf
LoadModule rewrite_module
  "mod_rewrite.so"
...
```

- Program with 7 options: $s, t, u, v, x, y, z \in \{0 \dots 4\}$

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- Interactions discovery

interaction	behavior
$x \wedge y$	$B0$
$x \wedge y \wedge (z \in \{0, 3, 4\})$	$B1$
$s \vee t$	$B2$
$(\neg s \wedge \neg t) \vee (\neg u \vee \neg v)$	$B3$
\vdots	

- Program with 7 options: $s, t, u, v, x, y, z \in \{0 \dots 4\}$
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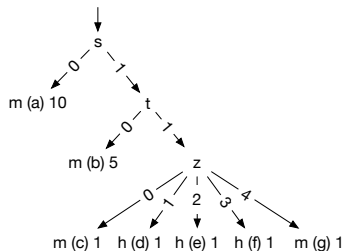
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\vdots	

- Use *dynamic analysis*

config	s	t	u	v	x	y	z	behavior
c_1	1	0	1	1	1	1	4	$B0, B1$
c_2	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	$B0, B3$
c_3	0	1	1	1	1	0	3	$B2$
	\vdots							

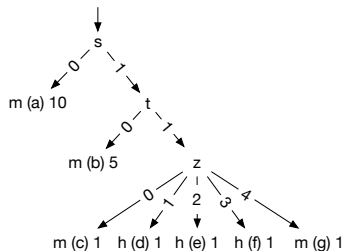
GenTree: Dynamic Interaction Discovery (FSE'16, ICSE'21)

- Use **decision trees** to represent interactions



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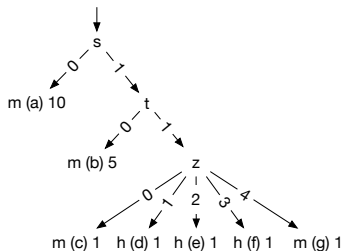
- Use **decision trees** to represent interactions



- **C5_i**: new classification algorithm

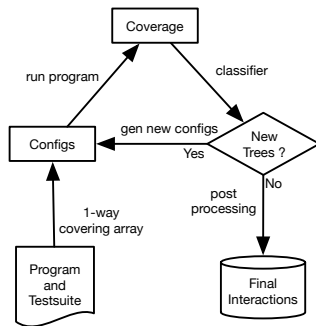
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Iterative approach

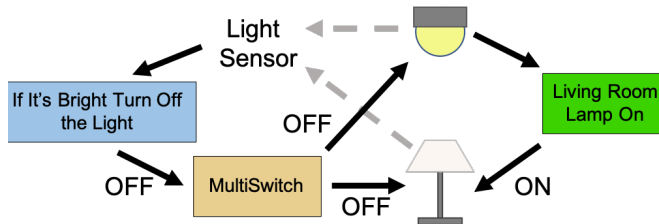


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IoT Interaction Analysis and Repair (UNL Faculty grant'21)



Build Systems (SPLC Workshop'20, ICSME NIER'20, NSF CRII'20)

```
--- Network device support
[*] Network core driver support
<M> Bonding driver support
<M> Dummy net driver support
<M> EQL (serial line load balancing) support
[ ] Fibre Channel driver support
<M> Intermediate Functional Block support
<M> Ethernet team driver support --->
<+> MAC-VLAN support
<M>   MAC-VLAN based tap driver
< > IP-VLAN support
< > Virtual eXtensible Local Area Network (VXLAN)
<M> Generic Network Virtualization Encapsulation
<M> GPRS Tunneling Protocol datapath (GTP-U)
< > IEEE 802.1AE MAC-level encryption (MACsec)
<M> Network console logging support
[*]   Dynamic reconfiguration of logging targets
<M> Universal TUN/TAP device driver support
[ ] Support for cross-endian vnet headers on little
<M> Virtual ethernet pair device
<M> Virtio network driver
<M> Virtual netlink monitoring device
<M> Virtual Routing and Forwarding (Lite)
<M> Virtual vsock monitoring device
<M> ARCnet support --->
v(+)
```

< elect> < Exit > < Help > < Save >

Linux/Unix Build Systems

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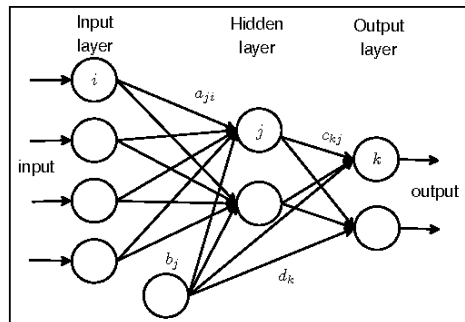
Linux/Unix Build Systems

```
ifeq ($(abs_otree),$(CURDIR))
MAKEFLAGS += --no-print-dir
else
need-sub-make := 1
endif

abs_stree := $(rpath $(dir $
(this-makefile)))
ifneq ($(words $(subst :,
,$(abs_stree))), 1)
$(error src dir cannot contain
spaces or colons)
endif
ifneq ($(abs_stree),$(abs_otree))
MAKEFLAGS +=
--include-dir=$(abs_stree)
```

Make/CMake

Deep Neural Networks

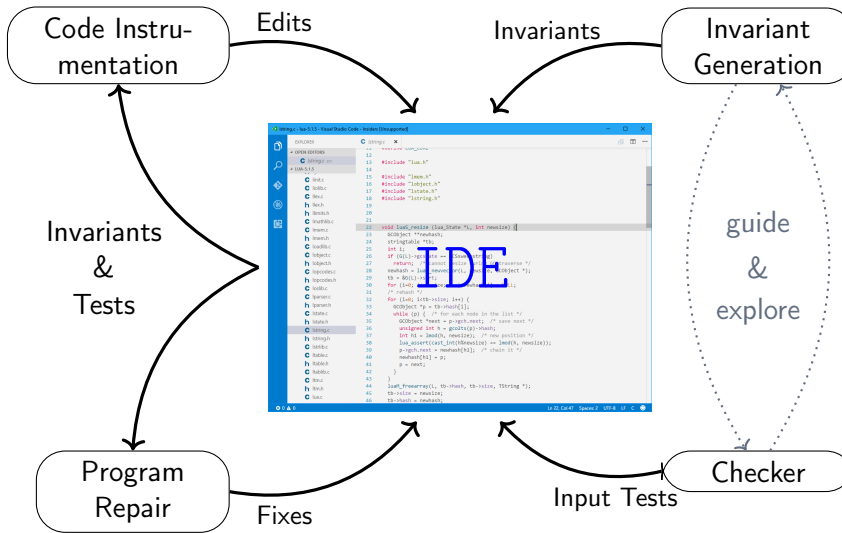


$a[1, \dots, h][1, \dots, n]$ \triangleright Input weights
 $c[1, \dots, m][1, \dots, h]$ \triangleright Output weights
 $b[1, \dots, h]$ \triangleright Hidden nodes' bias
 $d[1, \dots, m]$ \triangleright Output nodes' bias

```
FUNCTION  $\nu(\underline{x})$ 
  for  $j \leftarrow 1$  to  $h$  do
     $r_j \leftarrow 0$ ;
    for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $n$  do
       $r_j \leftarrow r_j + a_{ji} \cdot x_i + b_j$ 
    for  $k \leftarrow 1$  to  $m$  do
       $s_k \leftarrow 0$ ;
      for  $j \leftarrow 1$  to  $h$  do
         $s_k \leftarrow s_k + c_{kj} \cdot \sigma_h(r_j) + d_k$ 
       $y_k \leftarrow \sigma_o(s_k)$ 
  return  $\underline{y}$ 
```

- Invariants (activation patterns) discovery
- Symbolic testing

IDE Integration (<https://grammotech.gitlab.io/Mnemosyne/docs/muses/>)



Thank you!