

Effective Program Generation using Learned Probabilistic Models

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Joint work with Kihong Heo, Pardis Pashakhanloo,
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Hanyang University

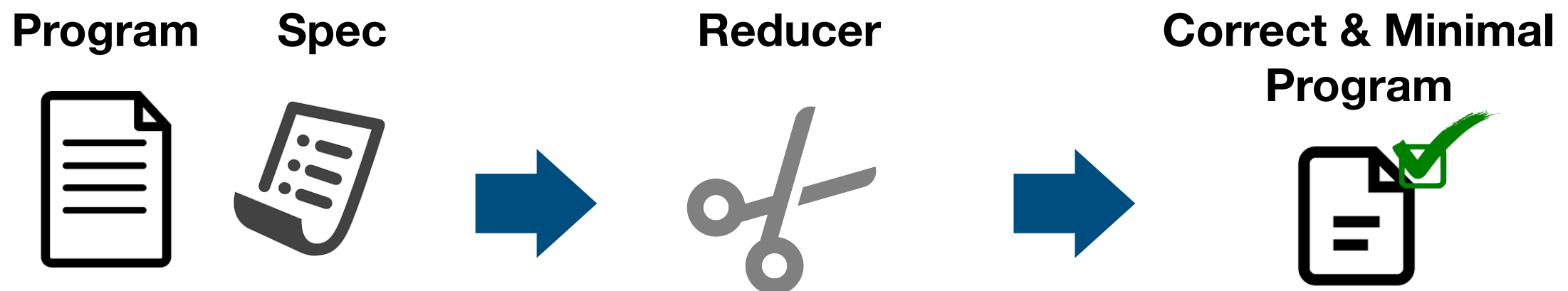


Program Generation

- Synthesis: automated generation from high-level specs.

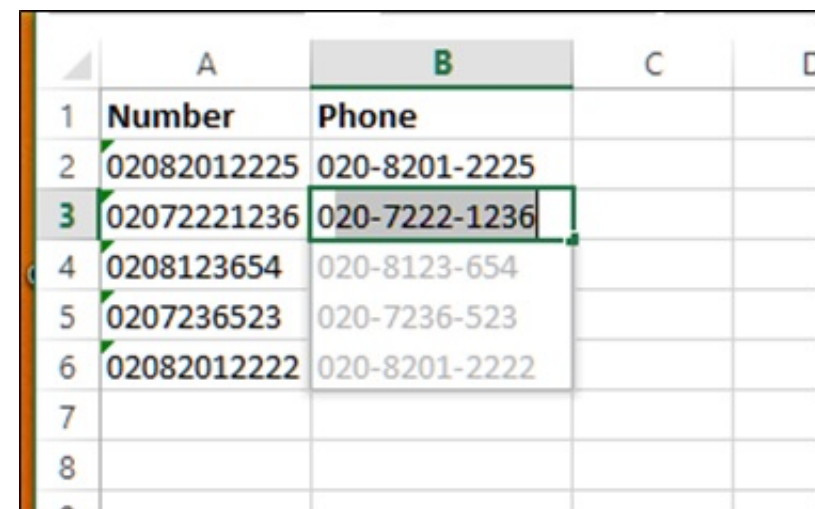


- Reduction: automated minimization from high-level specs.



Applications

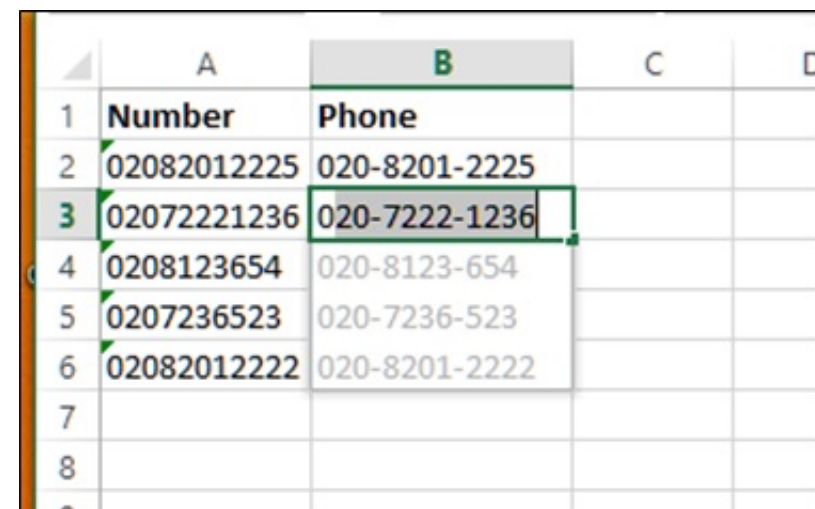
- Program synthesis
 - Programming-by-example (e.g., Microsoft Excel FlashFill)
- Program verification
- Program optimization
- Program reduction
 - Fault localization
 - Test case minimization (e.g., minimizing GCC bugs)
 - Attack surface reduction



	A	B	C	D
1	Number	Phone		
2	02082012225	020-8201-2225		
3	02072221236	020-7222-1236		
4	0208123654	020-8123-654		
5	0207236523	020-7236-523		
6	02082012222	020-8201-2222		
7				
8				
9				

Applications

- Program synthesis
 - Programming-by-example (e.g., Microsoft Excel FlashFill)
- Program verification
- Program optimization
- Program reduction
 - Fault localization



	A	B	C	D
1	Number	Phone		
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6	02082012222	020-8201-2222		
7				
8				
9				

Key limitation:
search not guided towards **likely** programs

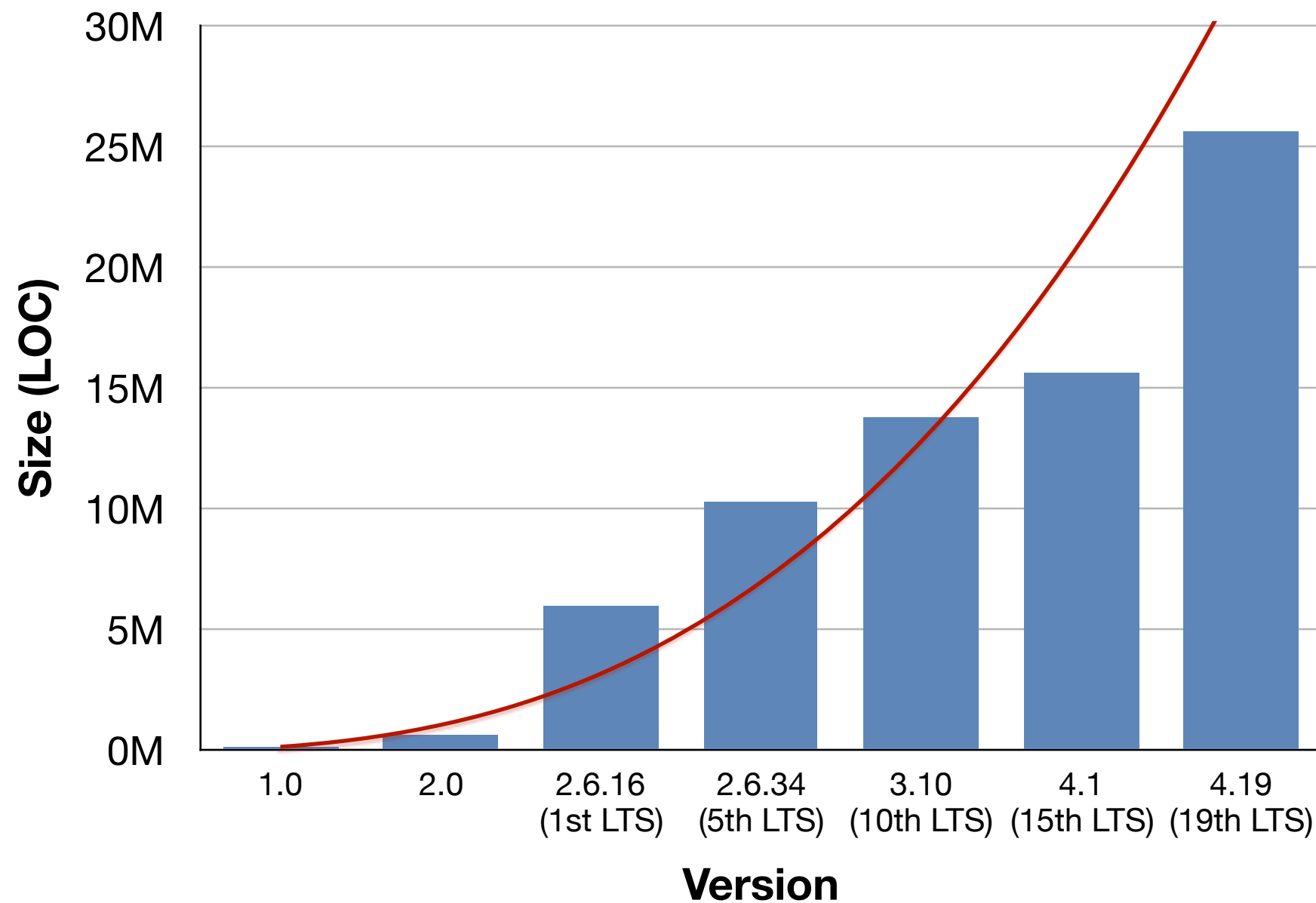
Publications

- Effective Program Debloating via Reinforcement Learning
Kihong Heo*, **Woosuk Lee***, Pardis Pashakhanloo and Mayur Naik
CCS 2018: 25th ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security, 2018 (* contributed equally)
- Accelerating Search-Based Program Synthesis Using Learned Probabilistic Models
Woosuk Lee, Kihong Heo, Rajeev Alur, Mayur Naik
PLDI 2018: 39th ACM SIGPLAN Conference on Programming Language Design and Implementation, 2018.

Effective Program Debloating via Reinforcement Learning (CCS'18)

Growth of SW Complexity

Linux Kernel



*<https://www.linuxcounter.net>

Consequences of SW Bloat

Performance

Maintainability

Security

- Example: **security vulnerability** in GNU tar

How can we reverse this trend?

State-of-the-Practice

General-purpose tar

- Out-of-the-box Linux

Customized tar

- BusyBox Utility Package*

*<https://busybox.net>

State-of-the-Practice

General-purpose tar

- Out-of-the-box Linux
- 97 cmd line options

Customized tar

- BusyBox Utility Package*
- 8 cmd line options

*<https://busybox.net>

State-of-the-Practice

General-purpose tar

- Out-of-the-box Linux
- 97 cmd line options
- 45,778 LOC
- 13,227 statements

Customized tar

- BusyBox Utility Package*
- 8 cmd line options
- 3,287 LOC
- 403 statements

*<https://busybox.net>

State-of-the-Practice

General-purpose tar

- Out-of-the-box Linux
- 97 cmd line options
- 45,778 LOC
- 13,227 statements
- CVE-2016-6321



Customized tar

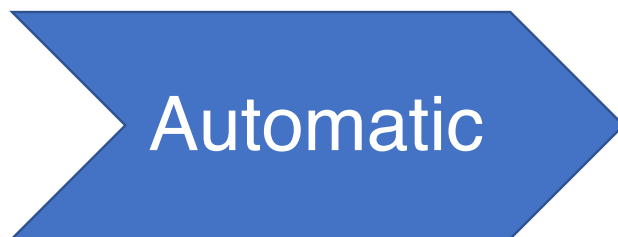
- BusyBox Utility Package*
- 8 cmd line options
- 3,287 LOC
- 403 statements
- No known CVEs

*<https://busybox.net>

Our Goal

General-purpose tar

- Out-of-the-box Linux
- **97** cmd line options
- **45,778** LOC
- **13,227** statements
- **CVE-2016-6321**



High-level
Spec

Customized tar

- BusyBox Utility Package*
- **8** cmd line options
- **1,646**
~~3,287~~ LOC
- **518**
~~403~~ statements
- **No known CVEs**

*<https://busybox.net>

Our Contribution

Chisel: an automated program debloating system[†]

- **minimality**: trim code as aggressively as possible
- **efficiency**: scale to large programs
- **robustness**: avoid introducing new vulnerabilities
- **naturalness**: produce maintainable code
- **generality**: handle a variety of programs and specs

[†] <http://chisel.cis.upenn.edu>

Reduced version of tar-1.14

Global variable declarations removed

```
int absolute_names;
int ignore_zeros_option;
struct tar_stat_info stat_info;

char *safer_name_suffix (char *file_name, int link_target) {
    int prefix_len;
    char *p;

    if (absolute_names) {
        p = file_name;
    } else {
        /* CVE-2016-6321 */
        /* Incorrect sanitization if "file_name" contains ".." */
        ...
    }
    ...
    return p;
}

void extract_archive() {
    char *file_name = safer_name_suffix(stat_info.file_name, 0);
    /* Overwrite "file_name" if exists */
    ...
}

void list_archive() { ... }
```

Code containing **CVE** removed

Overwriting functionalities removed

```
void read_and(void *(do_something)(void)) {
    enum read_header status;
    while (...) {
        status = read_header();
        switch (status) {
            case HEADER_SUCCESS: (*do_something)(); continue;
            case HEADER_ZERO_BLOCK:
                if (ignore_zeros_option) continue;
                else break;
            ...
            default: break;
        }
    }
    ...
}

/* Supports all options: -x, -t, -P, -i, ... */
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    int optchar;
    while (optchar = getopt_long(argc, argv) != -1) {
        switch(optchar) {
            case 'x': read_and(&extract_archive); break;
            case 't': read_and(&list_archive); break;
            case 'P': absolute_names = 1; break;
            case 'i': ignore_zeros_option = 1; break;
            ...
        }
    }
    ...
}
```

Unnecessary functionalities removed

Unsupported options removed

Exploit

CVE-2016-6321

- `tar` uses a sanitization mechanism to handle archives containing `././` in their target pathname
- (e.g., `'a/././b' → 'b'`)
- This sanitization is flawed, and attackers can exploit it.

Exploit

- Suppose the root user intends to only extract a file from a downloaded archive and write to `‘/etc/motd’` (at the root dir).

```
$> tar xf malicious.tar etc/motd
```

- `“malicious.tar”` contains an entry whose pathname is `‘etc/motd/../etc/shadow’`
- The file `‘/etc/shadow’` (containing actual passwords in encrypted format for users’ (including the root) accounts) is changed **(may lead to a full system compromise)**.
- Note that `‘/etc/shadow’` should not be extracted when asking for `‘/etc/motd’`.

Exploit

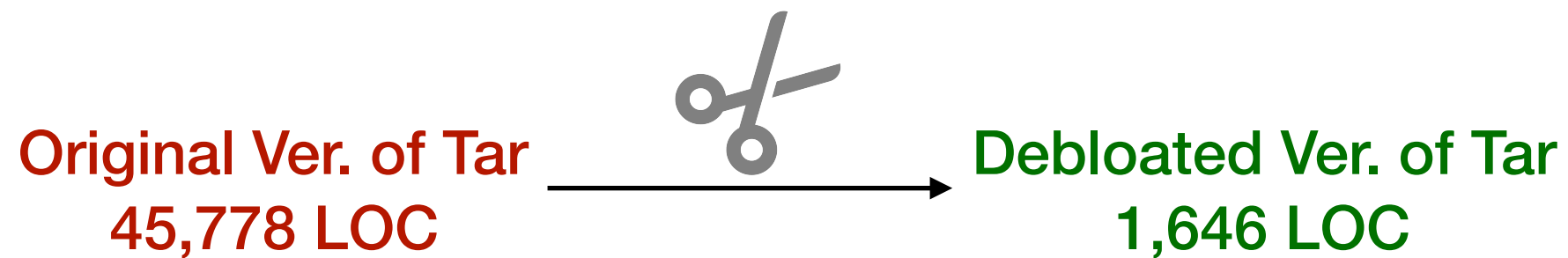
Security vulnerability (path traversal): CVE-2016-6321

```
root:/$ cat etc/shadow
root:l1k4qj1xQWErkzQW1:0:99999:7:::
root:/$ tar xv malicious.tar etc/motd
root:/$ cat etc/shadow
Your system has been compromised :)
root:/$ _
```



*<https://seclists.org/fulldisclosure/2016/Oct/96>

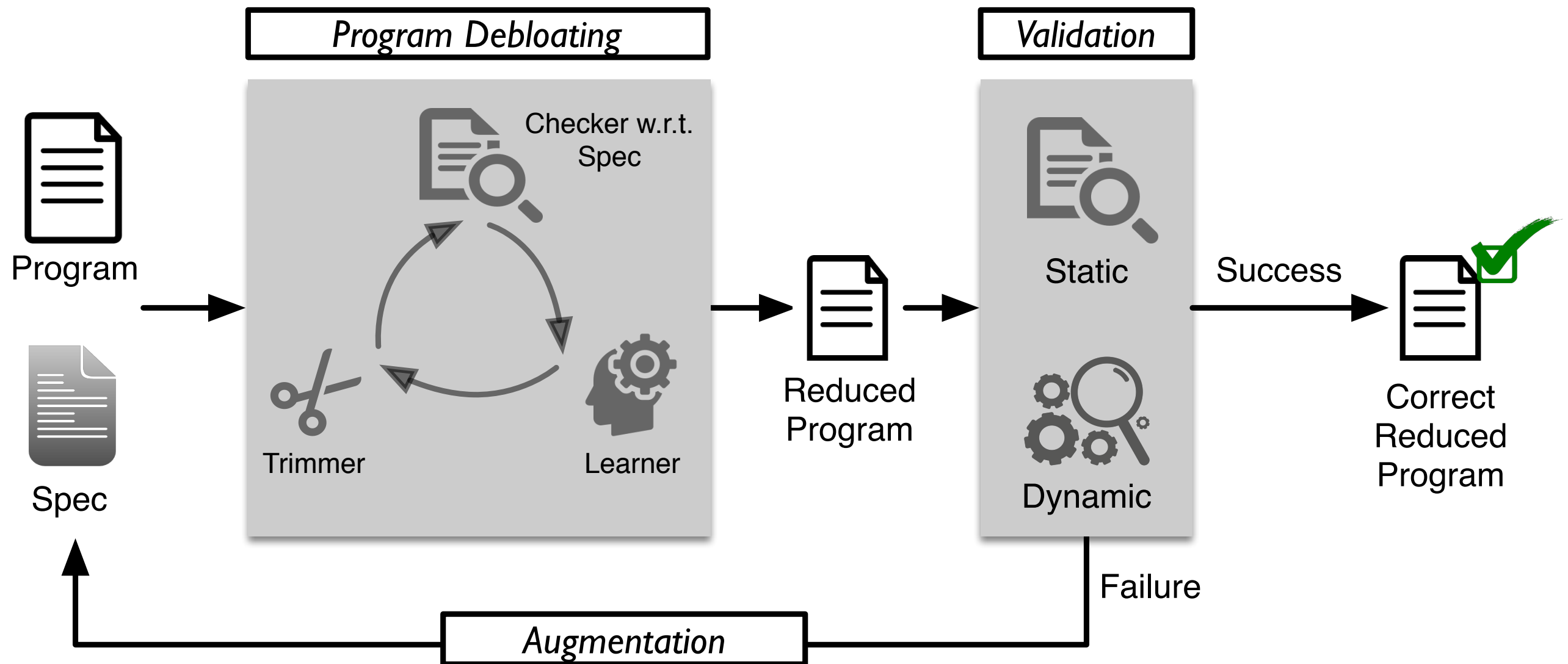
Exploit Removed



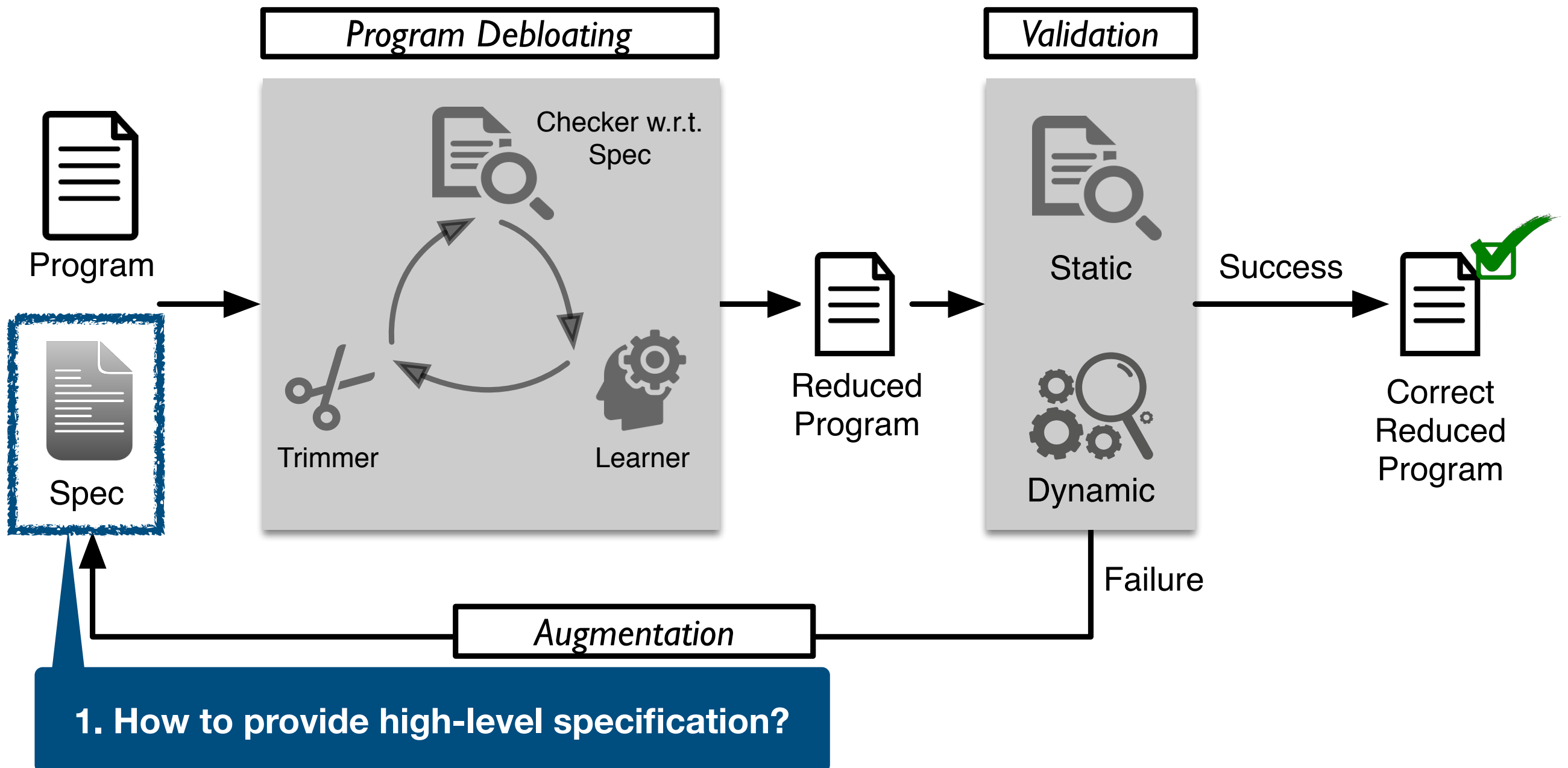
```
root:/$ cat etc/shadow
root:l1k4qj1xQWErkzQW1:0:99999:7:::
root:/$ tar xv malicious.tar etc/motd
root:/$ cat etc/shadow
root:l1k4qj1xQWErkzQW1:0:99999:7:::
root:/$ _
```



System Architecture

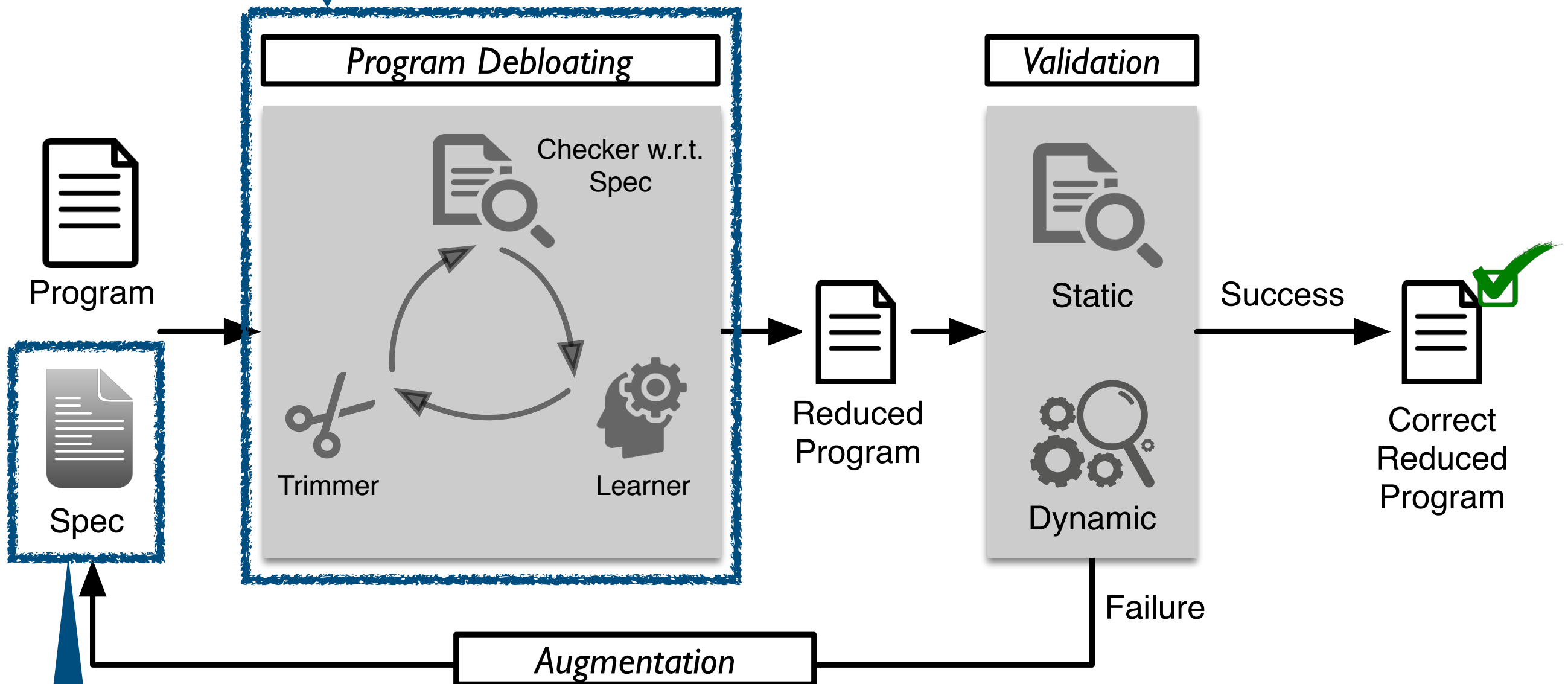


Key Questions



Key Questions

2. How to effectively reduce programs?

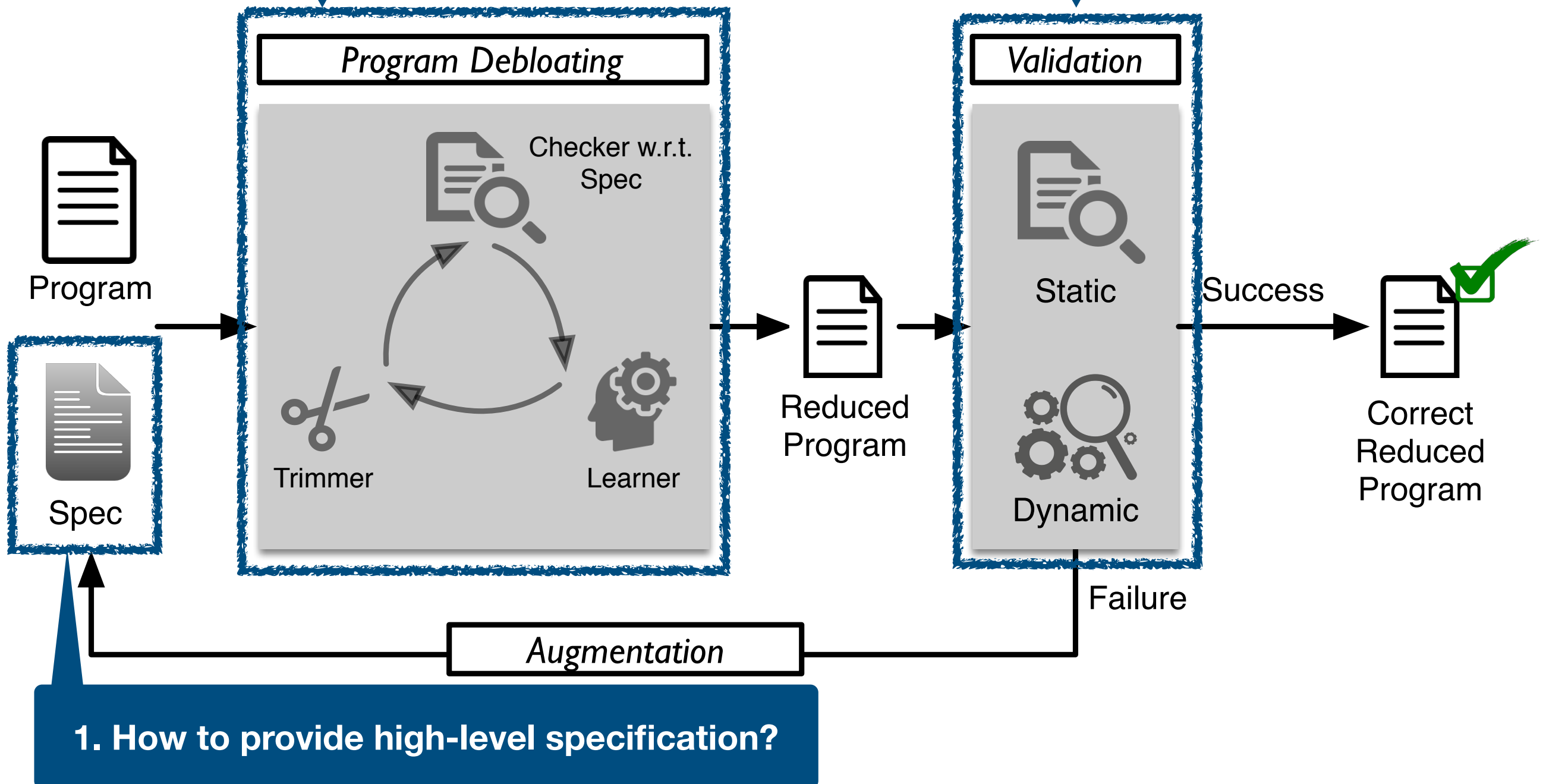


1. How to provide high-level specification?

Key Questions

2. How to effectively reduce programs?

3. How to validate robustness?



High-level Specification

```
#!/bin/bash

function compile {
    clang -o tar.debloat tar-1.14.c
    return $?
}

# tests for the desired functionalities
function desired {
    # 1. archiving multiple files
    touch foo bar
    ./tar.debloat cf foo.tar foo bar
    rm foo bar
    ./tar.debloat xf foo.tar
    test -f foo -a -f bar || exit 1

    # 2. extracting from stdin
    touch foo
    ./tar.debloat cf foo.tar foo
    rm foo
    cat foo.tar | ./tar.debloat x
    test -f foo || exit 1

    # other tests
    ...
    return 0
}
```

```
# tests for the undesired functionalities
function undesired {
    for test_script in `ls other_tests/*.sh`
    do
        { sh -x -e $test_script; } >& log
        grep 'Segmentation fault' log && exit 1
    done
    return 0
}

compile || exit 1
core || exit 1
non_core || exit 1
```

High-level Specification

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
function compile {  
    clang -o tar.debloat tar-1.14.c  
    return $?  
}
```

1. The program is compilable.

```
# tests for the desired functionalities
```

```
function desired {  
    # 1. archiving multiple files  
    touch foo bar  
    ./tar.debloat cf foo.tar foo bar  
    rm foo bar  
    ./tar.debloat xf foo.tar  
    test -f foo -a -f bar || exit 1  
  
    # 2. extracting from stdin  
    touch foo  
    ./tar.debloat cf foo.tar foo  
    rm foo  
    cat foo.tar | ./tar.debloat x  
    test -f foo || exit 1  
  
    # other tests  
    ...  
    return 0  
}
```

```
# tests for the undesired functionalities
```

```
function undesired {  
    for test_script in `ls other_tests/*.sh`  
    do  
        { sh -x -e $test_script; } >& log  
        grep 'Segmentation fault' log && exit 1  
    done  
    return 0  
}
```

```
compile || exit 1  
core || exit 1  
non_core || exit 1
```

High-level Specification

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
function compile {  
    clang -o tar.debloat tar-1.14.c  
    return $?  
}
```

```
# tests for the desired functionalities
```

```
function desired {  
    # 1. archiving multiple files  
    touch foo bar  
    ./tar.debloat cf foo.tar foo bar  
    rm foo bar  
    ./tar.debloat xf foo.tar  
    test -f foo -a -f bar || exit 1  
  
    # 2. extracting from stdin  
    touch foo  
    ./tar.debloat cf foo.tar foo  
    rm foo  
    cat foo.tar | ./tar.debloat x  
    test -f foo || exit 1  
  
    # other tests  
    ...  
    return 0  
}
```

2. The program produces the same results with the desired functionalities. (e.g., using regression test suites)

```
# tests for the undesired functionalities
```

```
function undesired {  
    for test_script in `ls other_tests/*.sh`  
    do  
        { sh -x -e $test_script; } >& log  
        grep 'Segmentation fault' log && exit 1  
    done  
    return 0  
}
```

```
compile || exit 1  
core || exit 1  
non_core || exit 1
```

High-level Specification

```
#!/bin/bash
```

3. The program does not crash with the undesired functionalities. (e.g., using Clang sanitizers)

```
function undesired {  
  # 1. archiving multiple files  
  touch foo bar  
  ./tar.debloat cf foo.tar foo bar  
  rm foo bar  
  ./tar.debloat xf foo.tar  
  test -f foo -a -f bar || exit 1  
  
  # 2. extracting from stdin  
  touch foo  
  ./tar.debloat cf foo.tar foo  
  rm foo  
  cat foo.tar | ./tar.debloat x  
  test -f foo || exit 1  
  
  # other tests  
  ...  
  return 0  
}
```

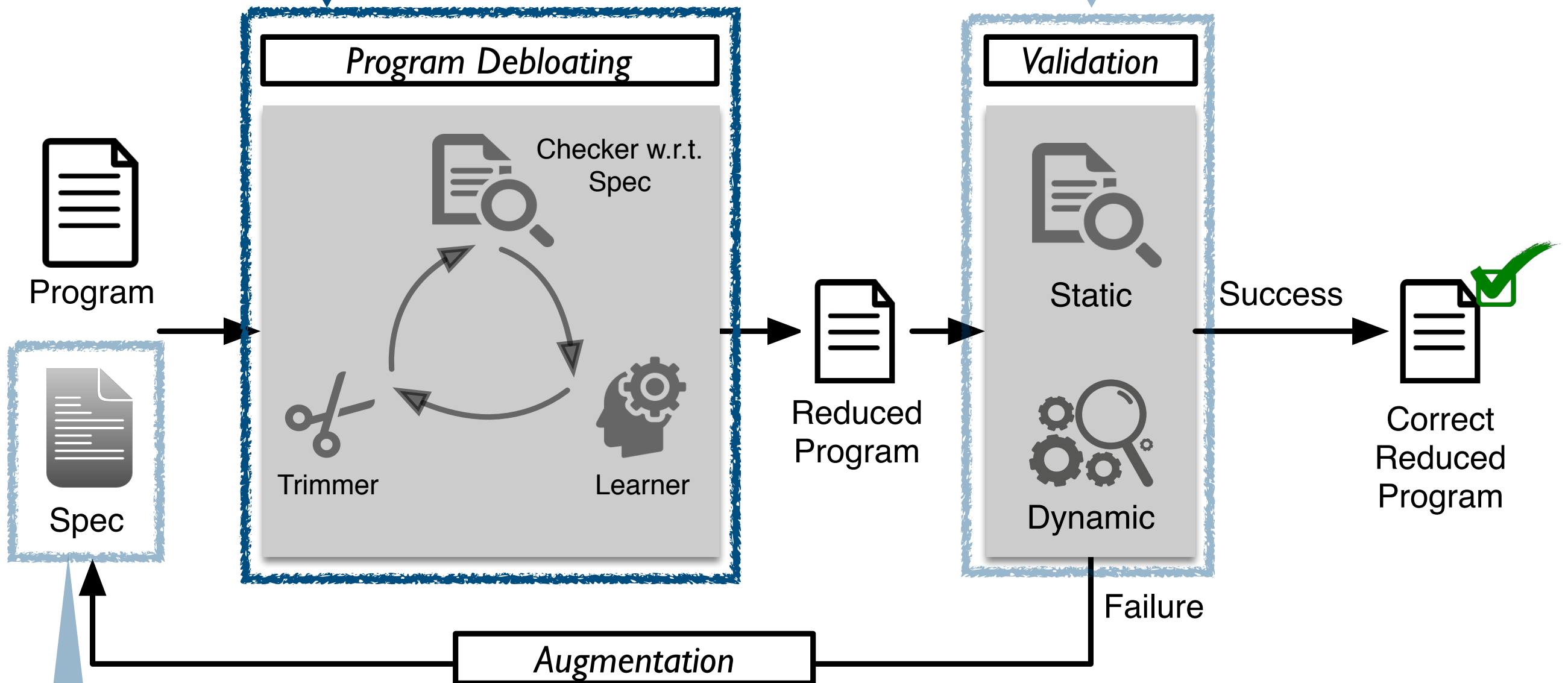
```
# tests for the undesired functionalities  
function undesired {  
  for test_script in `ls other_tests/*.sh`  
  do  
    { sh -x -e $test_script; } >& log  
    grep 'Segmentation fault' log && exit 1  
  done  
  return 0  
}
```

```
compile || exit 1  
core || exit 1  
non_core || exit 1
```

Key Questions

2. How to effectively reduce programs?

3. How to validate robustness?

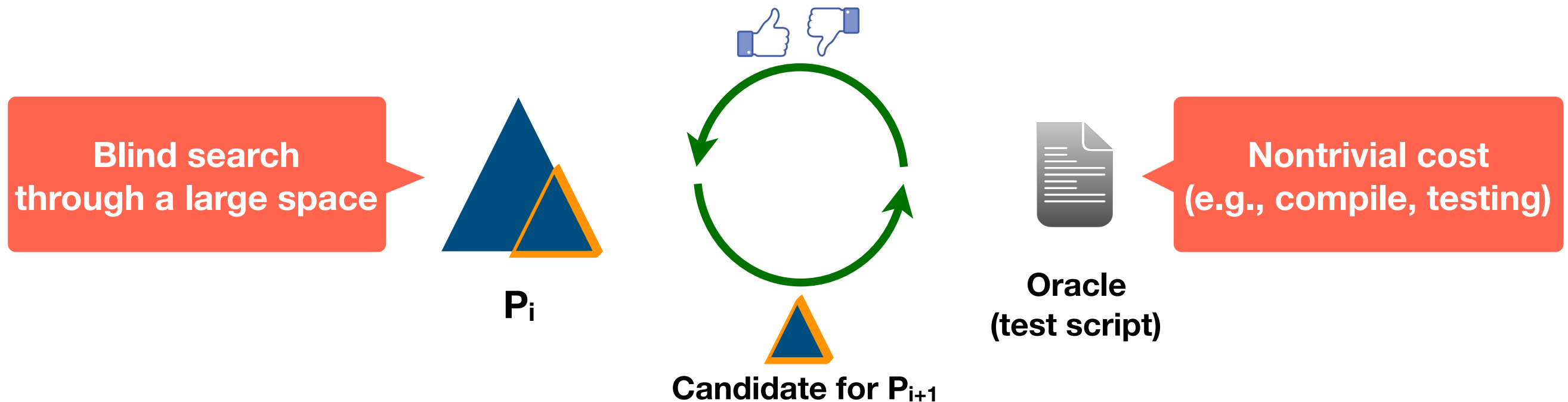


1. How to provide high-level specification?

DD: Key Challenges

[Zeller and Hildebrandt, 2002]

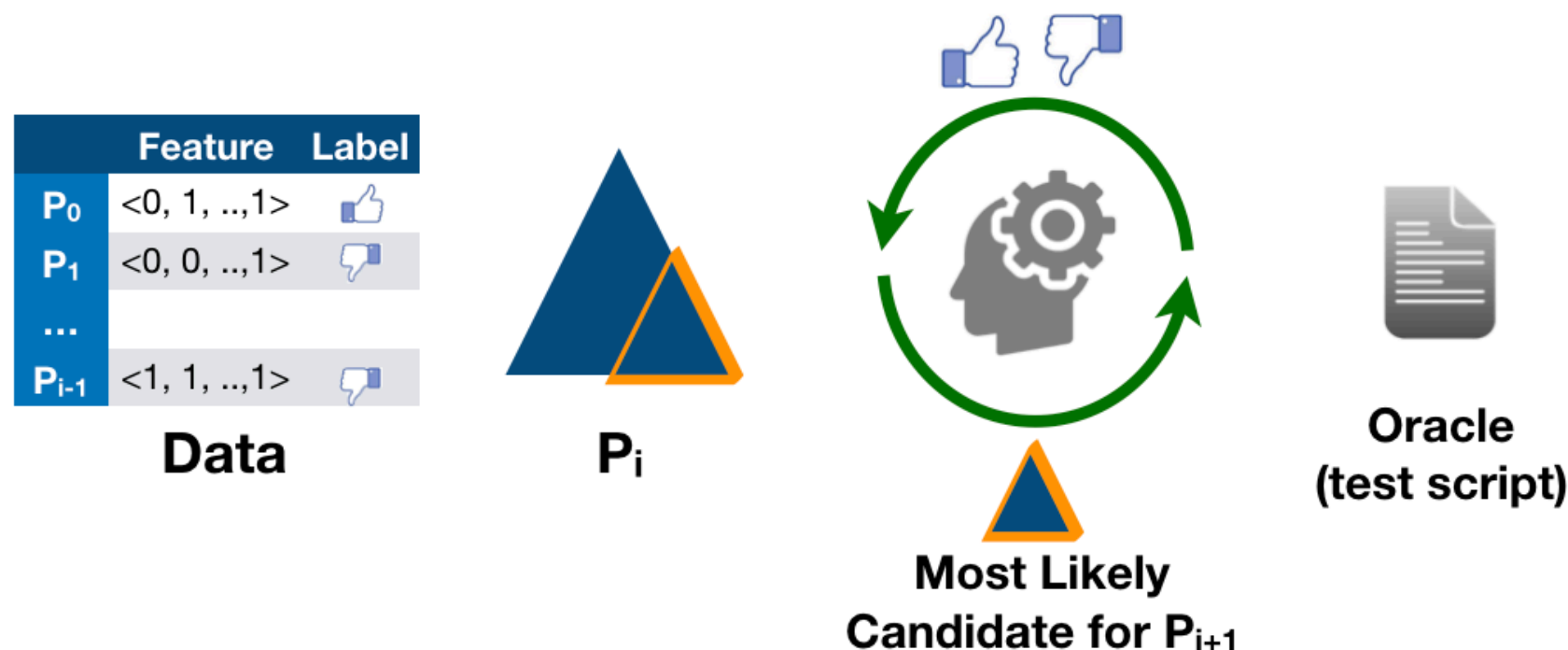
- Oracle O takes a program and returns Pass or Fail
- Given a program P , find a **1-minimal** P^* such that $O(P^*) = \text{Pass}$
- **1-minimal**: removing any element of P^* does not pass O
- Time complexity: $O(|P|^2)$



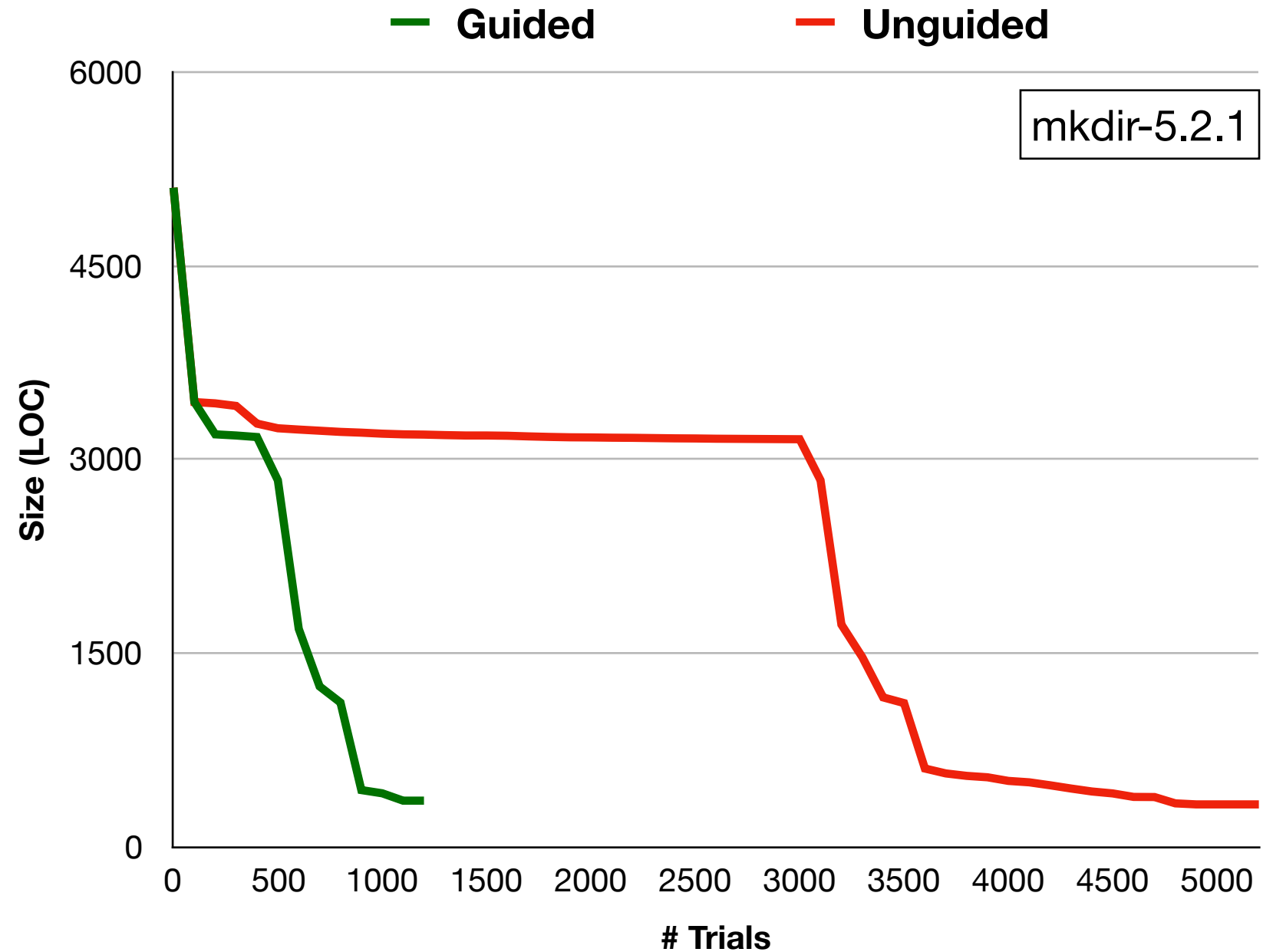
Our Solution:

Learning-guided DD

- **Learn a policy** for DD using reinforcement learning (RL)
- **Guide the search** based on the prediction of the learned policy
- Still guarantee **1-minimality** and **$O(|P|^2)$ time complexity**
- Discard nonsensical programs upfront (e.g., invalid syntax, no main, uninitialized variables, etc)



Our Solution: Learning-guided DD



Example

```
/* mkdir-5.2.1 */
int xstrtol(char *s, char **ptr, int strtol_base, strtol_t *val,
            char *valid_suffixes) {
1: err = 0;
2: assert(0 <= strtol_base && strtol_base <= 36);
3: p = ptr ? ptr : &t_ptr;
4: q = s;
5: while(isspace(*q)) ++q;
6: if (*q == '-') return LONGINT_INVALID;
7: errno = 0;
8: tmp = strtol(s, p, strtol_base);
9: if (*p == s) { ... }
10: if (!valid_suffixes) { ... }
11: if (**p != '\0') { ... }
12: *val = tmp;
13: return err;
}
```

: removed code

Example

```
/* mkdir-5.2.1 */
int xstrtol(char *s, char **ptr, int strtol_base, strtol_t *val,
            char *valid_suffixes) {
1:  err = 0;
2:  assert(0 <= strtol_base && strtol_base <= 36);
3:  p = ptr ? ptr : &t_ptr;
4:  q = s;
5:  while(ISSPACE (*q)) ++q;
6:  if (*q == '-') return LONGINT_INVALID;
7:  errno = 0;
8:  tmp = strtol(s, p, strtol_base);
9:  if (*p == s) { ... }
10: if (!valid_suffixes) { ... }
11: if (**p != '\0') { ... }
12: *val = tmp;
13: return err;
}
```


Minimal Desired Program:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----

Unguided Delta-Debugging

1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	---

 : included

Guided Delta-Debugging

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----

Unguided Delta-Debugging

1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗

Guided Delta-Debugging

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----

Unguided Delta-Debugging

1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗

...

Guided Delta-Debugging

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----

Unguided Delta-Debugging

1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
...														
16	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✓
...														

Guided Delta-Debugging

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----

Unguided Delta-Debugging

1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
...														
16	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✓
...														
65	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✓

Guided Delta-Debugging

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----

Unguided Delta-Debugging

1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
...														
16	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✓
...														
65	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✓

Guided Delta-Debugging

1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	---

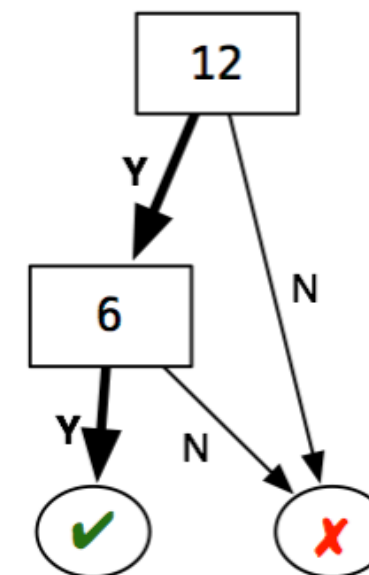
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----

Unguided Delta-Debugging

1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
...														
16	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✓
...														
65	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✓

Guided Delta-Debugging

1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feature vector														Label



P^* should include 6 and 12

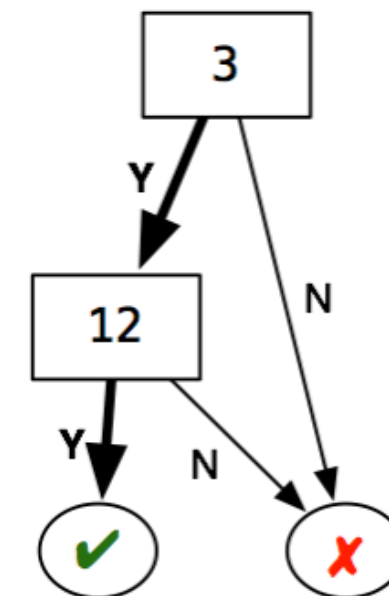
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----

Unguided Delta-Debugging

1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
...														
16	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✓
...														
65	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✓

Guided Delta-Debugging

1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----

Unguided Delta-Debugging

1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
...														
16	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✓
...														
65	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✓

5,169 trials (4,872 failures)

Guided Delta-Debugging

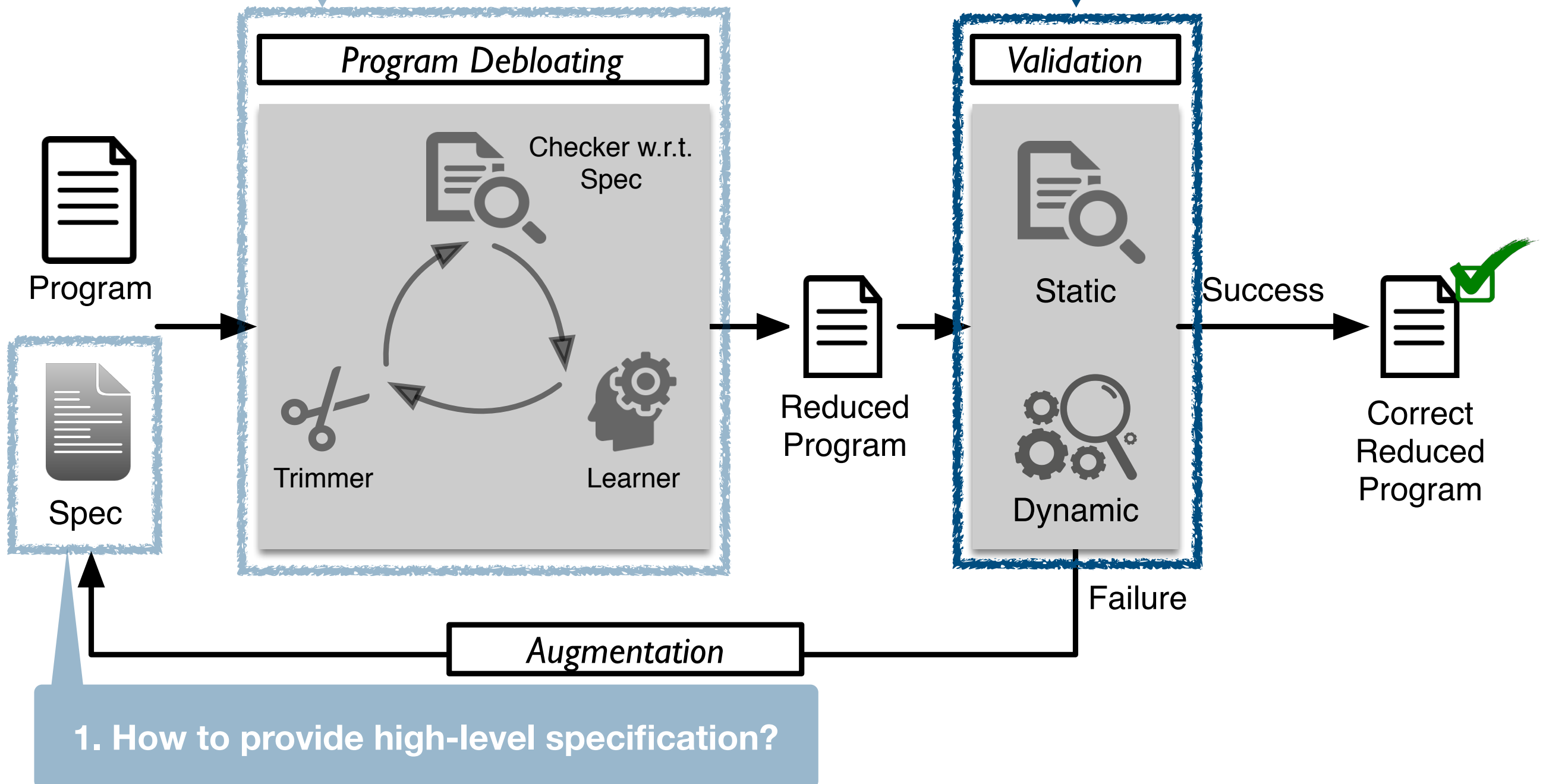
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✗
...														
7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✓
...														
30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	✓

1,174 trials (901 failures)

Key Questions

2. How to effectively reduce programs?

3. How to validate robustness?



Validation

- Check the **robustness** of the reduced program
 - preventing newly introduced security holes
- Sound static buffer overflow analyzer (**Sparrow**)
 - #alarms in tar: **1,290** → **19** (feasible for manual inspection)
- Random fuzzer (AFL)
 - no crashing input found in **3 days** for tar

Augmentation

- Augment the test script with crashing inputs by AFL
- Typically converges in up to 3 iterations in practice
- But, may be incomplete

```
/* grep-2.19 */  
void add_tok (token t) {  
    /* removed in the first trial and restored after augmentation */  
    if (dfa->talloc == dfa->tindex)  
        dfa->tokens = (token *) realloc (/* large size */);  
    *(dfa->tokens + (dfa->tindex++)) = t;  
}
```

Talk Outline

- Motivation
- System Architecture
- **Evaluation**
- Conclusion

Experimental Setup

- 10 widely used **UNIX utility programs** (13—90 KLOC)
 - each program has a **known CVE**
 - **remove unreachable code** by static analysis upfront
- Specification:
 - supporting **the same cmd line options** as BusyBox
 - with the **test suites** by the original developers

Size of Reduced Program

#Statement

Program	Original	Chisel	Hand-written
bzip-1.05	6,316	1,575	2,342
chown-8.2	3,422	186	141
date-8.21	4,100	913	107
grep-2.19	10,816	1,071	355
gzip-1.2.4	4,069	1,042	1,058
mkdir-5.2.1	1,746	142	94
rm-8.4	3,470	73	89
sort-8.16	Reachable code by static analysis	Chisel reduced 89%	Comparable to hand-written versions
tar-1.14			
uniq-8.16			
Total	55,848	6,111	4,729

Security Hardening

Remove 4 and 2 CVEs in undesired and desired functionalities.
4 CVEs are not easily fixable by reduction (e.g., race condition).

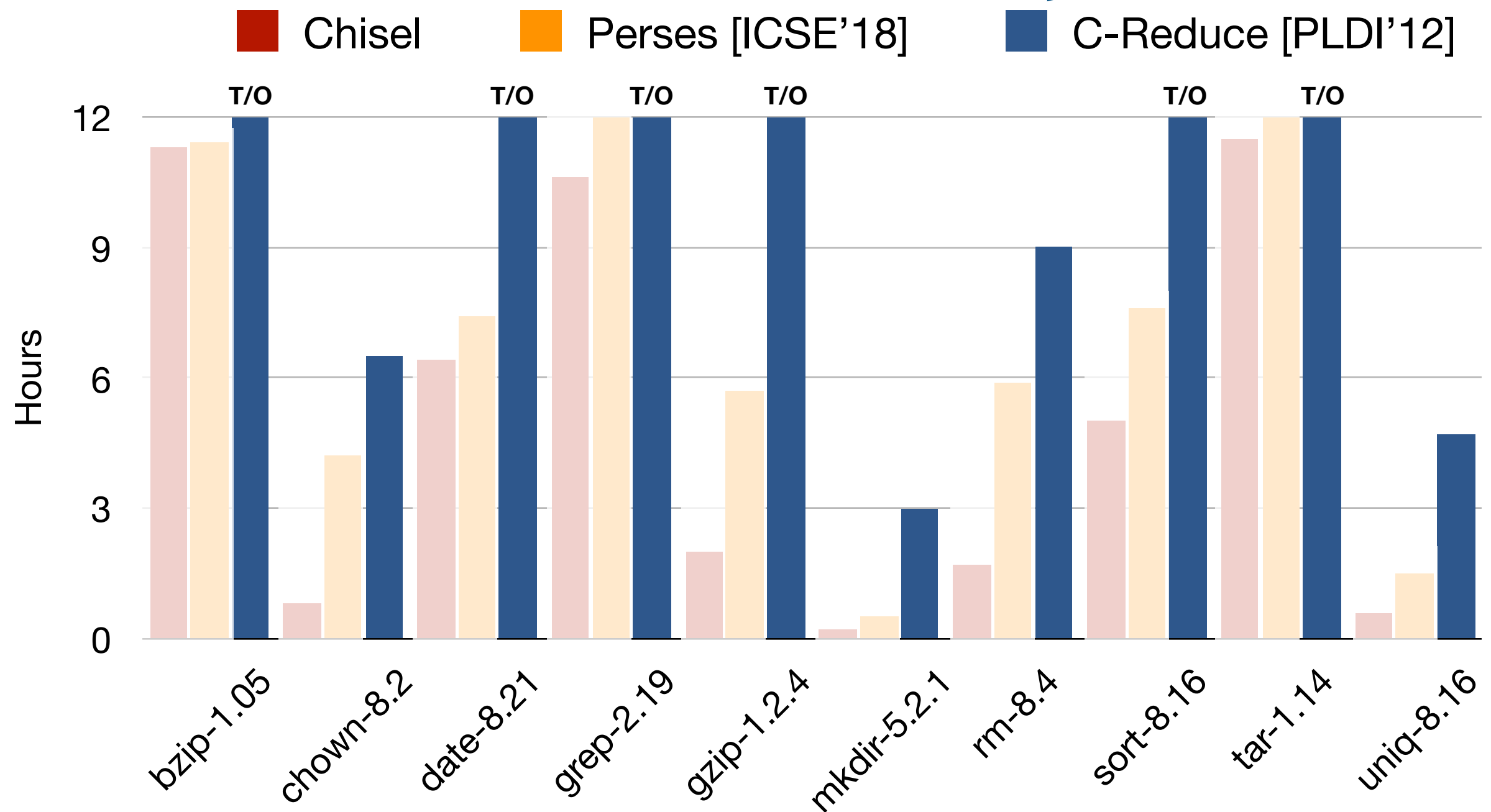
Program	CVE	#ROP Gadgets			#Alarms		
		Original	Reduced		Original	Reduced	
bzip-1.05	✗	662	298	(55%)	1,991	33	(98%)
chown-8.2	✓	534	162	(70%)	47	1	(98%)
date-8.21	✓	479	233	(51%)	201	23	(89%)
grep-2.19	✓	1,065	411	(61%)	619	31	(95%)
gzip-1.2.4	✓	456	340	(25%)	326	128	(61%)
mkdir-5.2.1	✗	229	124	(46%)	43	2	(95%)
rm-8.4	✗	565	95	(83%)	48	0	(100%)
sort-8.16	✓						
tar-1.14	✓						
uniq-8.16	✗						
Total		6,752	2,285	(66%)	5,298	243	(95%)

Reduced potential
attack surface

Make it feasible for
manual alarm inspection

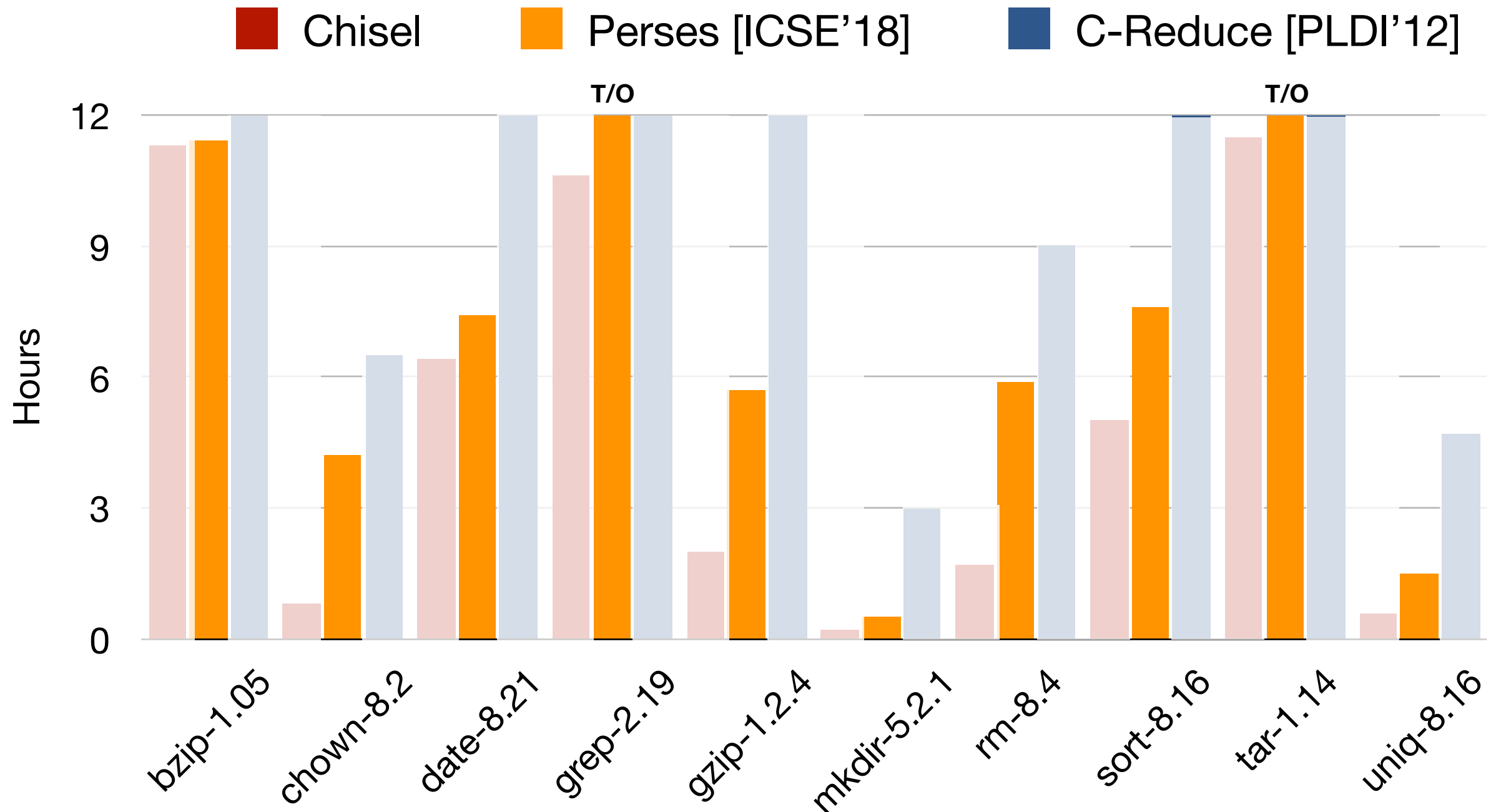
Reduction Time

Line-based reducer ran out of time for 6 programs



Reduction Time

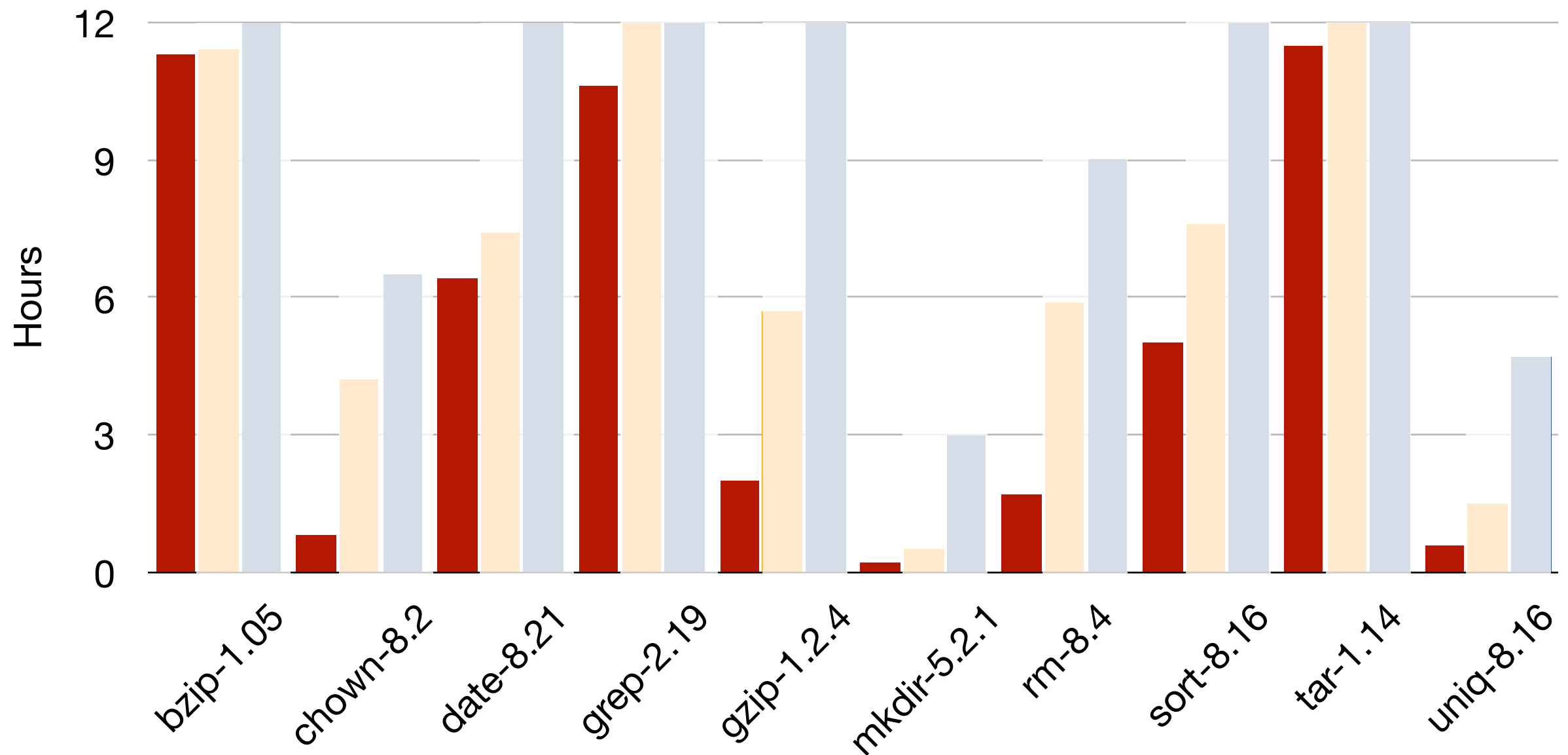
Grammar-based reducer ran out of time for 2 programs



Reduction Time

7x and 4x faster than
C-Reduce and Perses

Chisel Perses [ICSE'18] C-Reduce [PLDI'12]



Conclusion

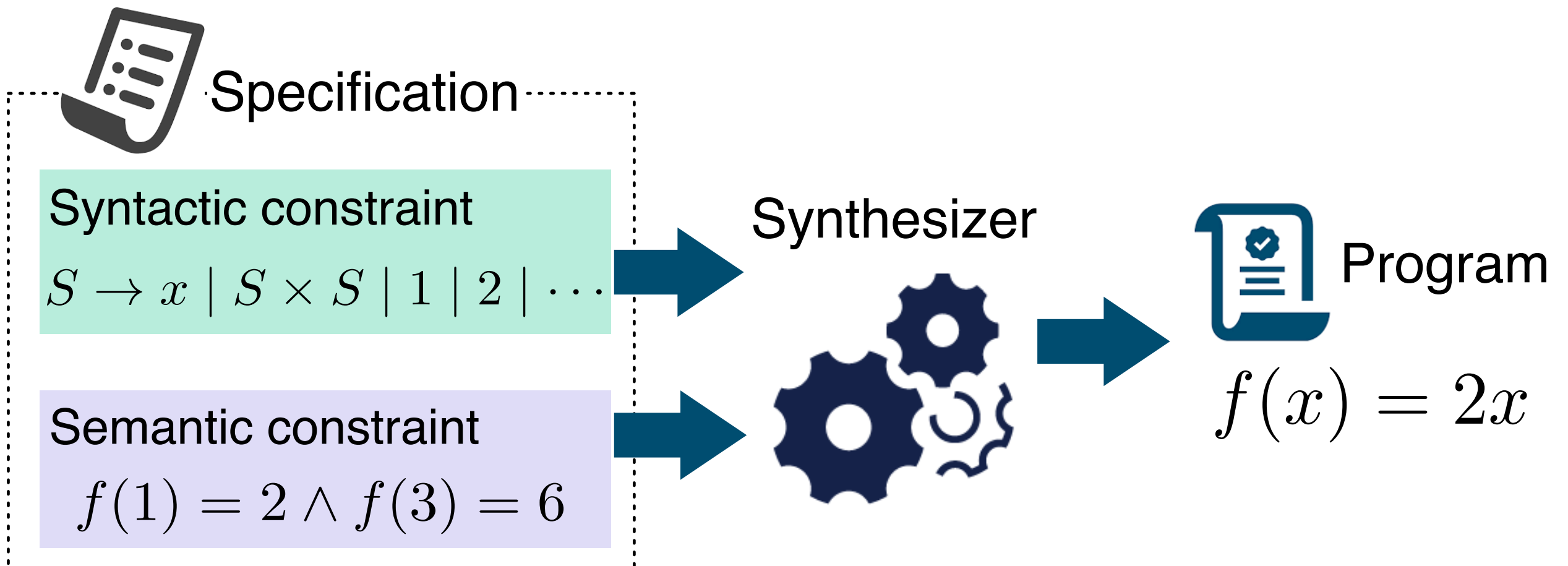
- **Chisel**: automated software debloating system
 - **tractable search** via learning-guided delta debugging
 - **security hardening** by removing undesired features
 - **robustness** via static & dynamic analyses
 - <http://chisel.cis.upenn.edu>
- **In the paper,**
 - reduction algorithm details
 - learning a debloating policy
 - engineering issues and design choices

Acknowledgment: Total Platform Cyber Protection (TPCP)



Accelerating Search-Based Program Synthesis Using Learned Probabilistic Models (PLDI'18)

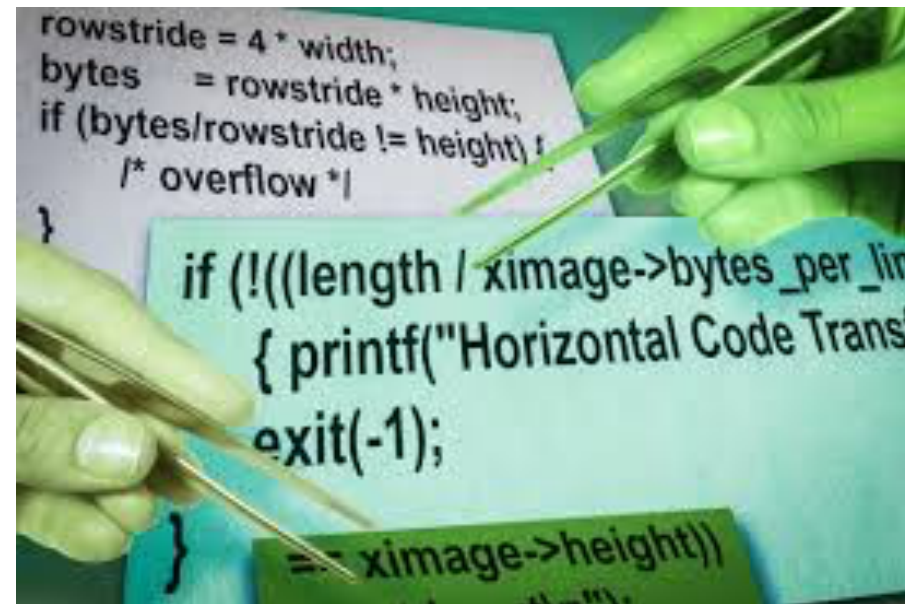
Syntax-Guided Program Synthesis (SyGuS)[†]



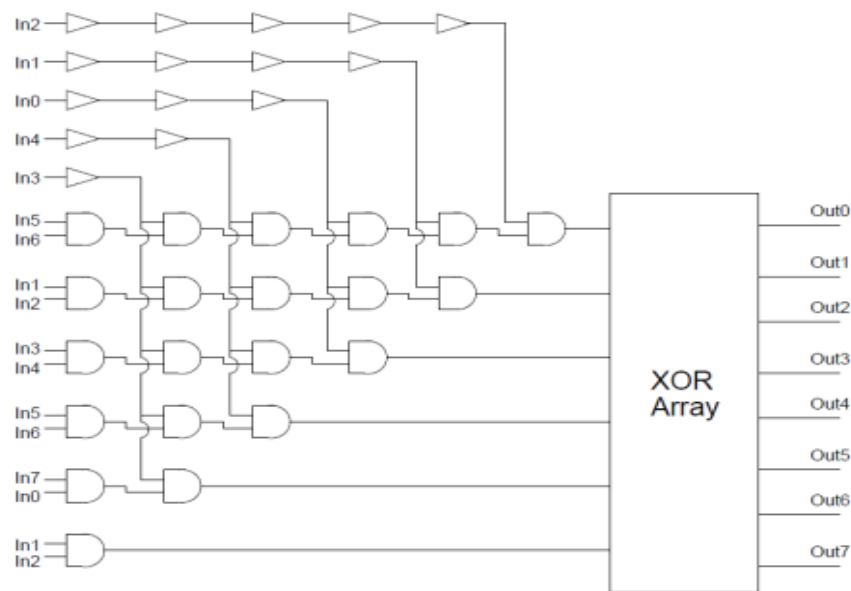
Applications of Program Synthesis

	A	B	C	D
1	Number	Phone		
2	02082012225	020-8201-2225		
3	02072221236	020-7222-1236		
4	0208123654	020-8123-654		
5	0207236523	020-7236-523		
6	02082012222	020-8201-2222		
7				
8				

**End-user Programming
(e.g., Excel Flash Fill)**



Program Repair



Circuit Transformation

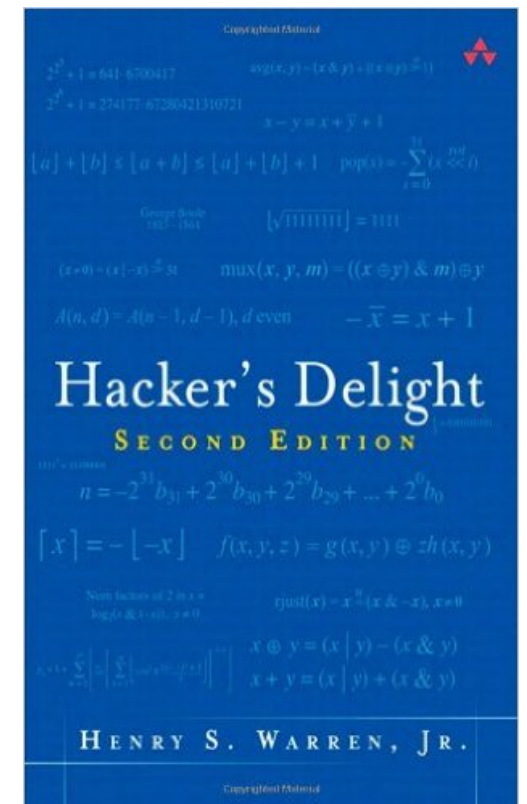
Others

- Invariant generation
- Super-optimization
- Autograding for coding assignment

...

Example

- Find a program P for bit-vector transformation such that
 - P is constructed from standard bit-vector operations ($|$, $\&$, \sim , $+$, $-$, \ll , \gg , 0 , 1 , ...)
 - P is consistent with the following input-output examples ($00101 \rightarrow 00100$,
 $10111 \rightarrow 10000$,
 $00111 \rightarrow 00000$)
- Resets rightmost substring of contiguous 1's to 0's.
- Desired solution: $x \& (1 + (x | (x - 1)))$



Existing General-Purpose Strategies

- Enumerative: search with pruning
 - EUSolver: Udupa et al. (PLDI'13, TACAS'17)
- Symbolic: constraint solving
 - CVC4: Reynolds et al. (CAV'15, CAV'18, IJCAR'18)
- Stochastic: probabilistic walk
 - STOKE: Schkufza et al. (ASPLOS'13, ASPLOS'17)

Existing General-Purpose Strategies

- Enumerative: search with pruning
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- Symbolic: constraint solving
 - CVC4: Reynolds et al. (CAV'15, CAV'18, IJCAR'18)
- Stochastic: probabilistic walk
 - STOKE: Schkufza et al. (ASPLOS'13, ASPLOS'17)

Key limitation:
search not guided towards **likely** programs

Statistical Regularities in Programs

- Programs contain repetitive and predictable patterns [Hindle et al. ICSE'12]

`for (i = 0; i < 100; ??)`

- Statistical program models define a probability distribution over programs

$$Pr(?? \rightarrow i++ \mid \text{for } (i = 0; i < 100; ??)) = 0.80$$

$$Pr(?? \rightarrow i-- \mid \text{for } (i = 0; i < 100; ??)) = 0.01$$

- e.g., n-gram, neural network, probabilistic context-free grammar (PCFG), ...
- Many applications: code completion, deobfuscation, program repair, etc.

Exploiting Statistical Regularities

Can we leverage statistical program models
to accelerate program synthesis?

Key Challenges:

1. How to guide the search given a statistical model?
2. How to learn a good statistical model?

Our Contributions

- A general approach to accelerate CEGIS-based program synthesis
 - by using a probabilistic model to guide the search towards likely programs
 - supports a wide range of models (e.g., n-gram, PCFG, PHOG, neural nets, ...)
- Transfer learning-based method to mitigate overfitting
- Tool (Euphony) and evaluation on widely applicable domains

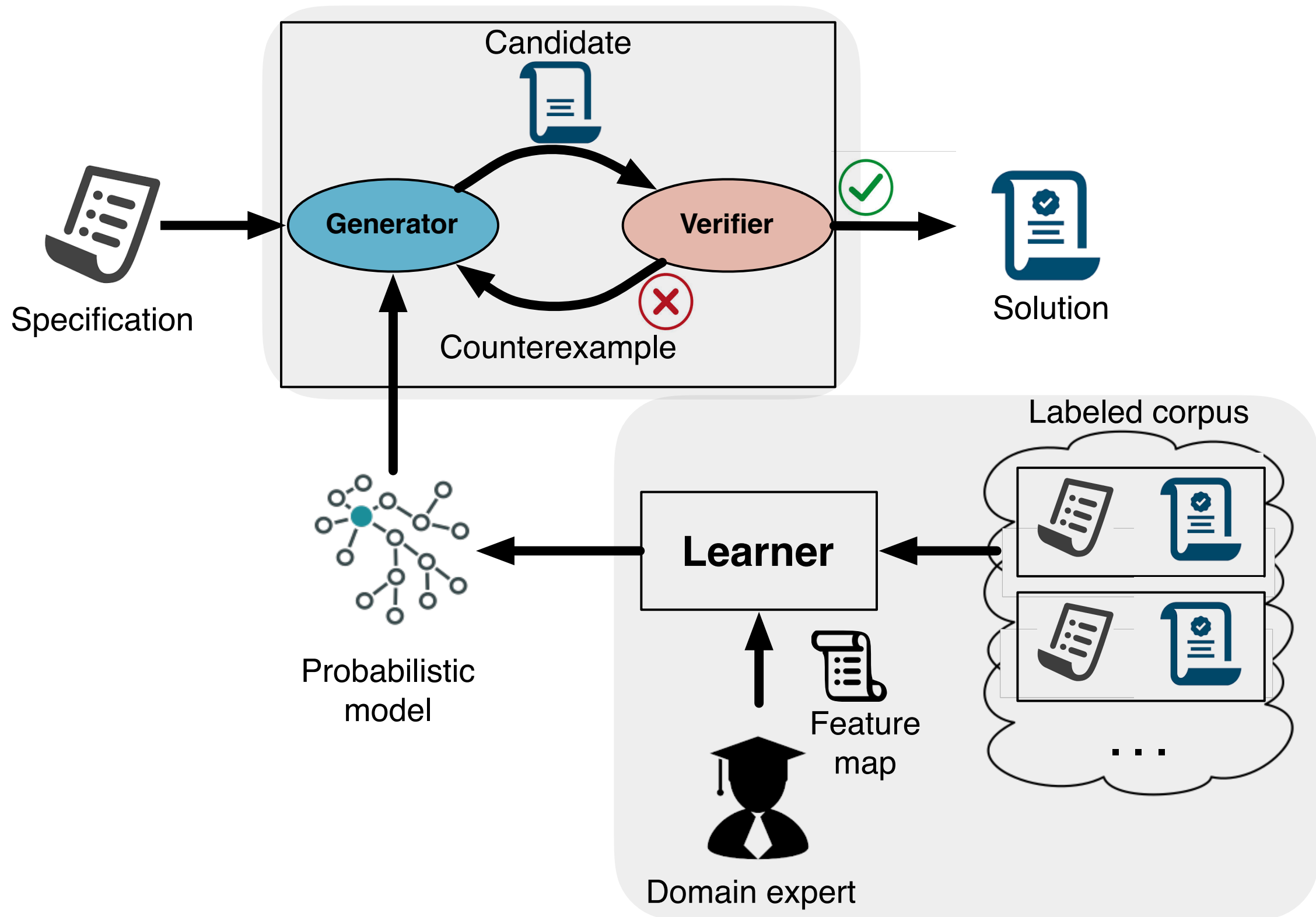
<https://github.com/wslee/euphony>



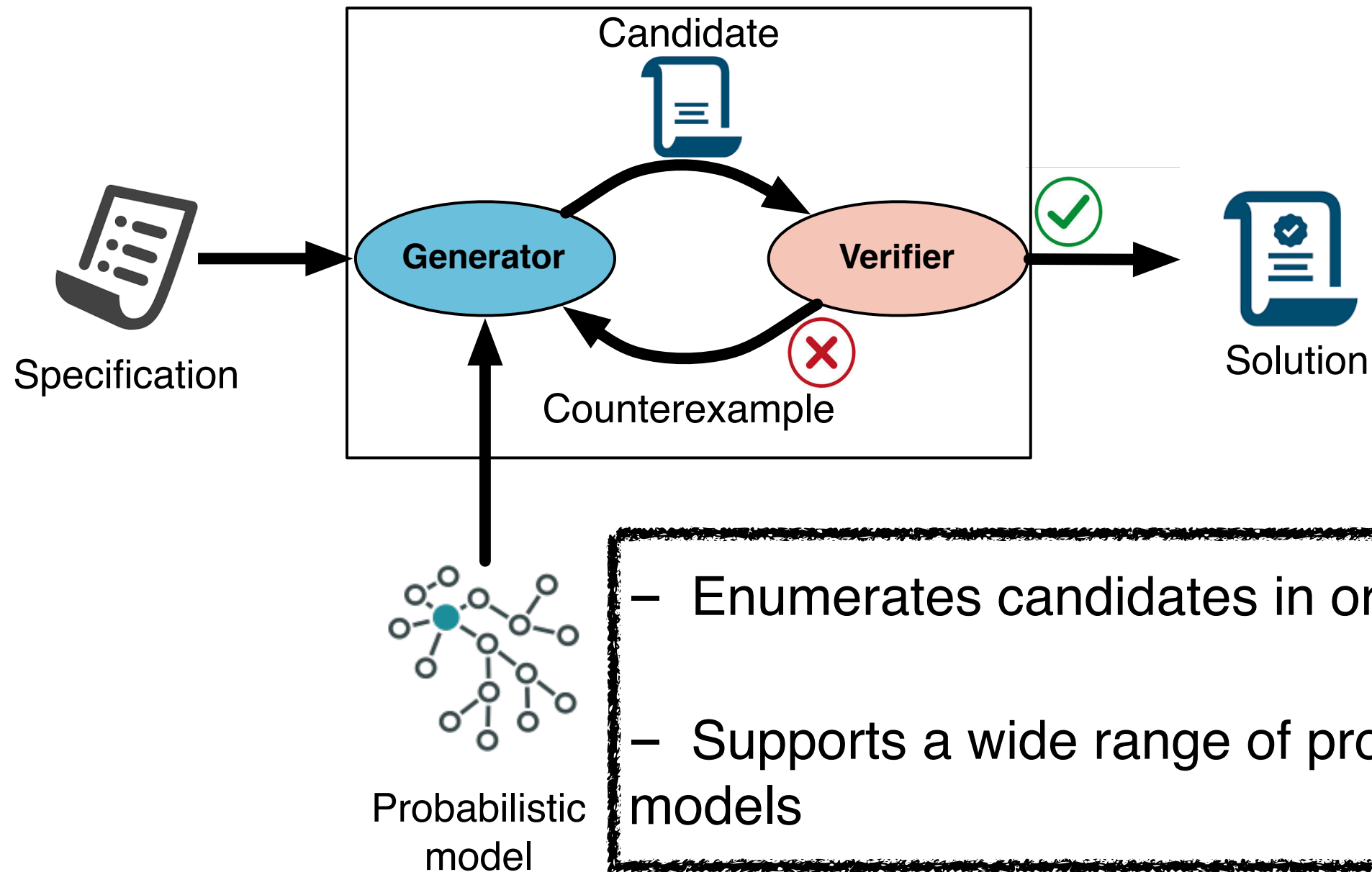
Talk Outline

- Overall Architecture
- Illustrative Example
- Empirical Evaluation

Overall Architecture

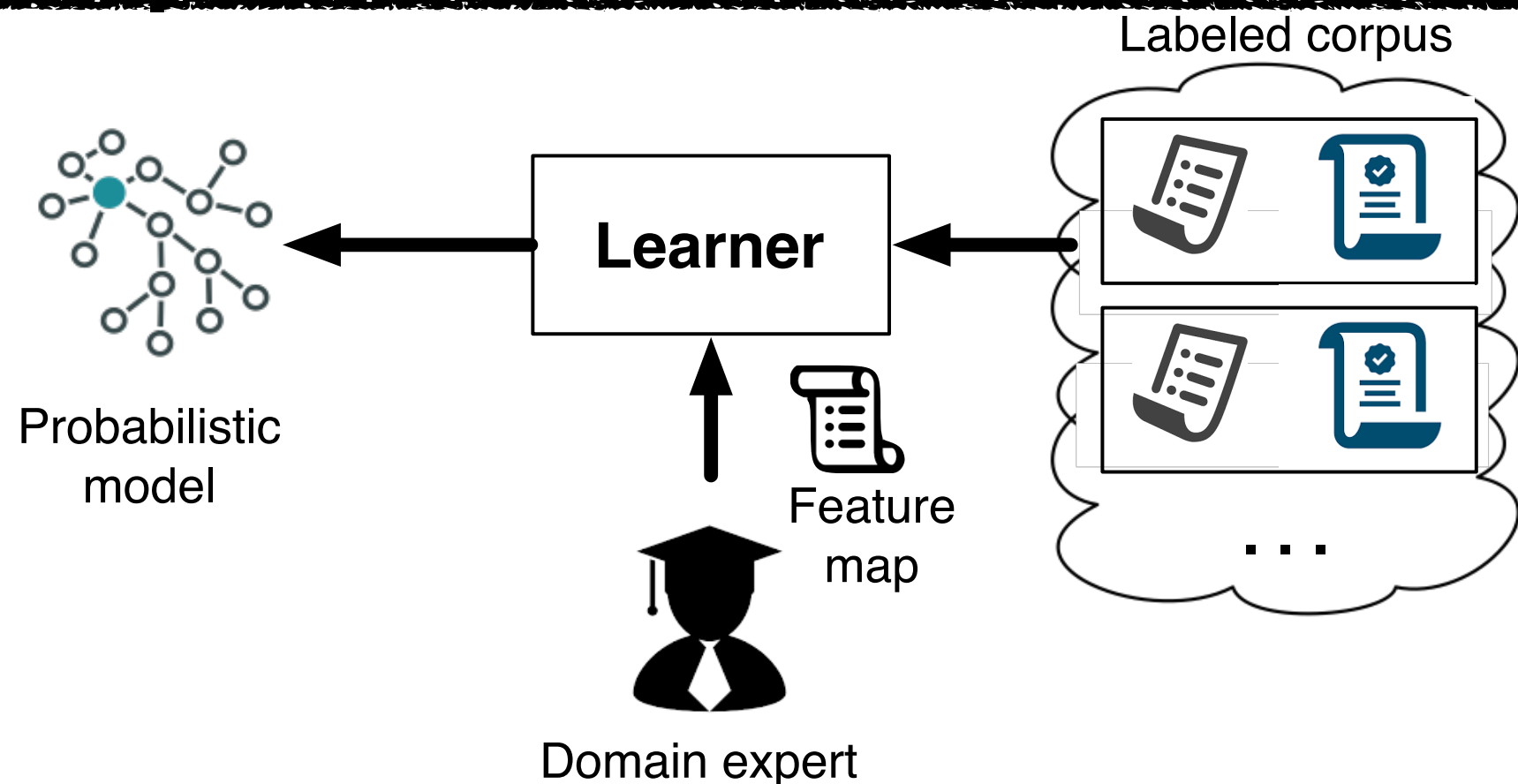


CEGIS with Guided Search



Transfer Learning

- Problem: overfitting
- Our solution: generalize to unseen programs better using a feature map designed by domain expert



Talk Outline

- Overall Architecture
- Illustrative Example
- Empirical Evaluation

Example

- Goal: a function f that replaces a hyphen (-) by a dot (.) in a given x string



Specification

Syntactic specification:

$$S \rightarrow x \mid \text{"-"} \mid \text{"."} \mid S + S \mid \text{Rep}(S, S, S)$$

String concatenation

Rep(s, t1, t2): t1 in s is replaced by t2

Semantic specification:

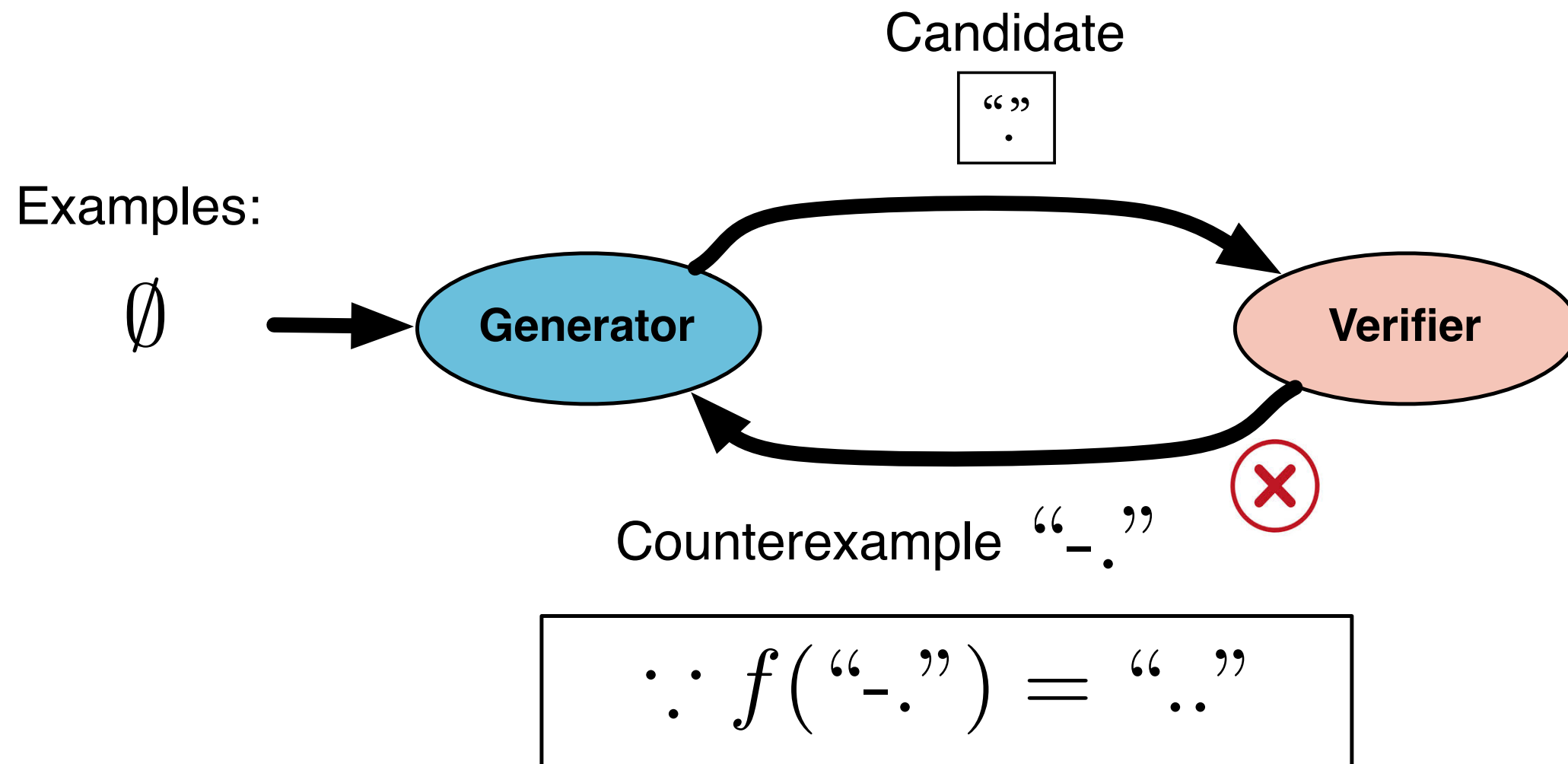
$$f(\text{"-."}) = \text{".."} \wedge f(\text{"308-916"}) = \text{"308.916"} \wedge f(\text{"1"}) = \text{"1"}$$



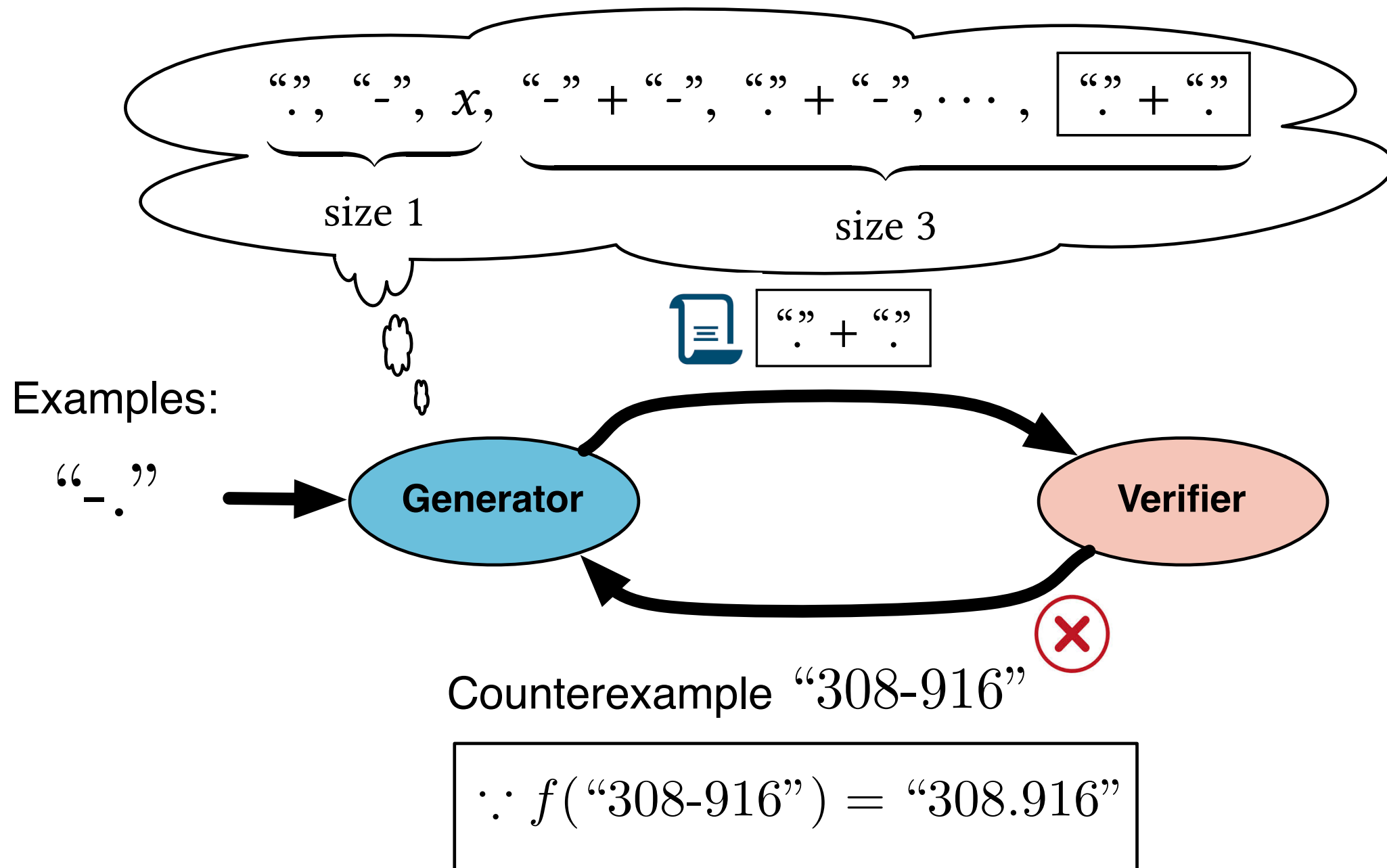
Solution

Rep(x , "-", ".").

Enumerative Search: Unguided

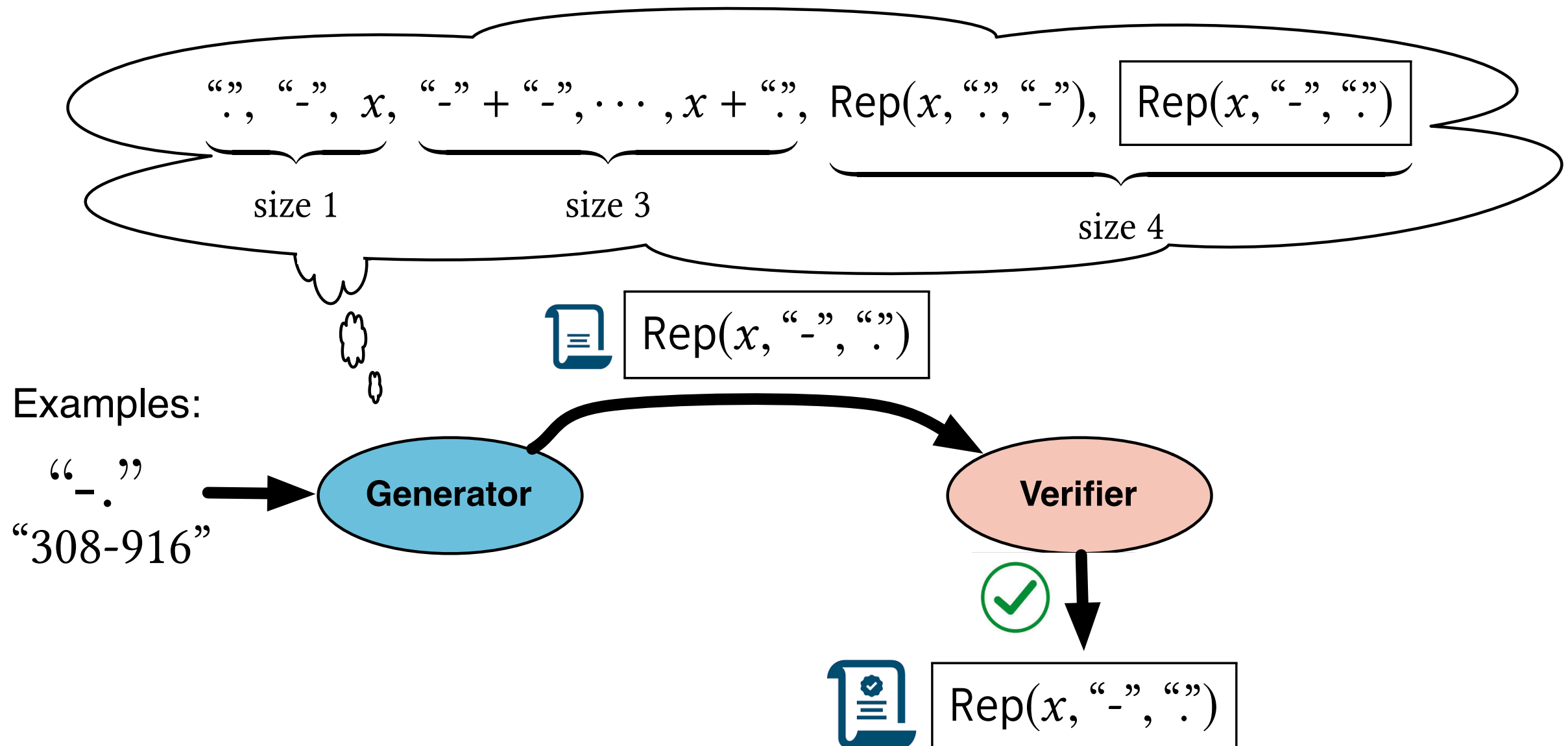


Enumerative Search: Unguided



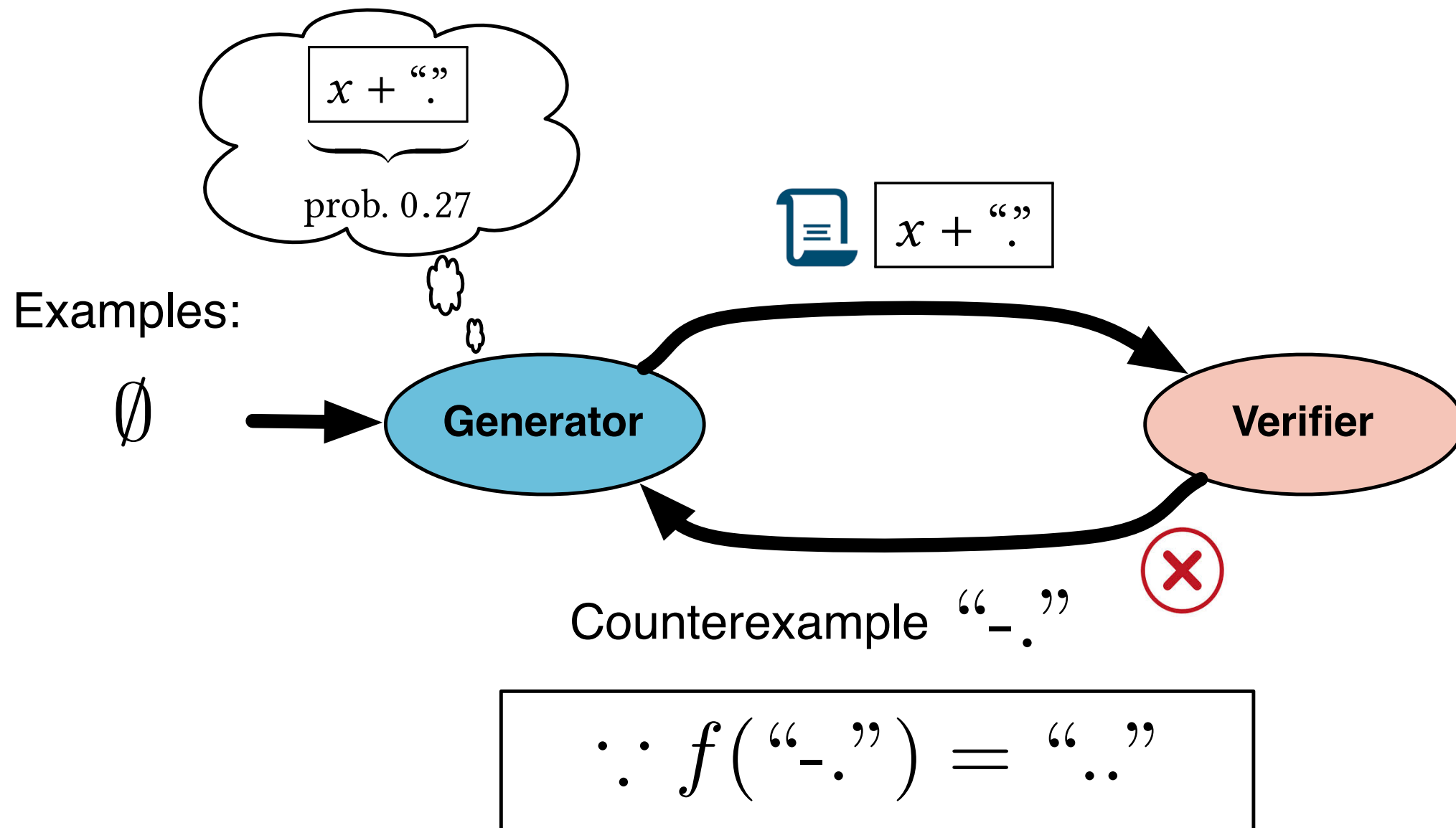
Pruning optimization: “-” + “.” is not explored.

Enumerative Search: Unguided



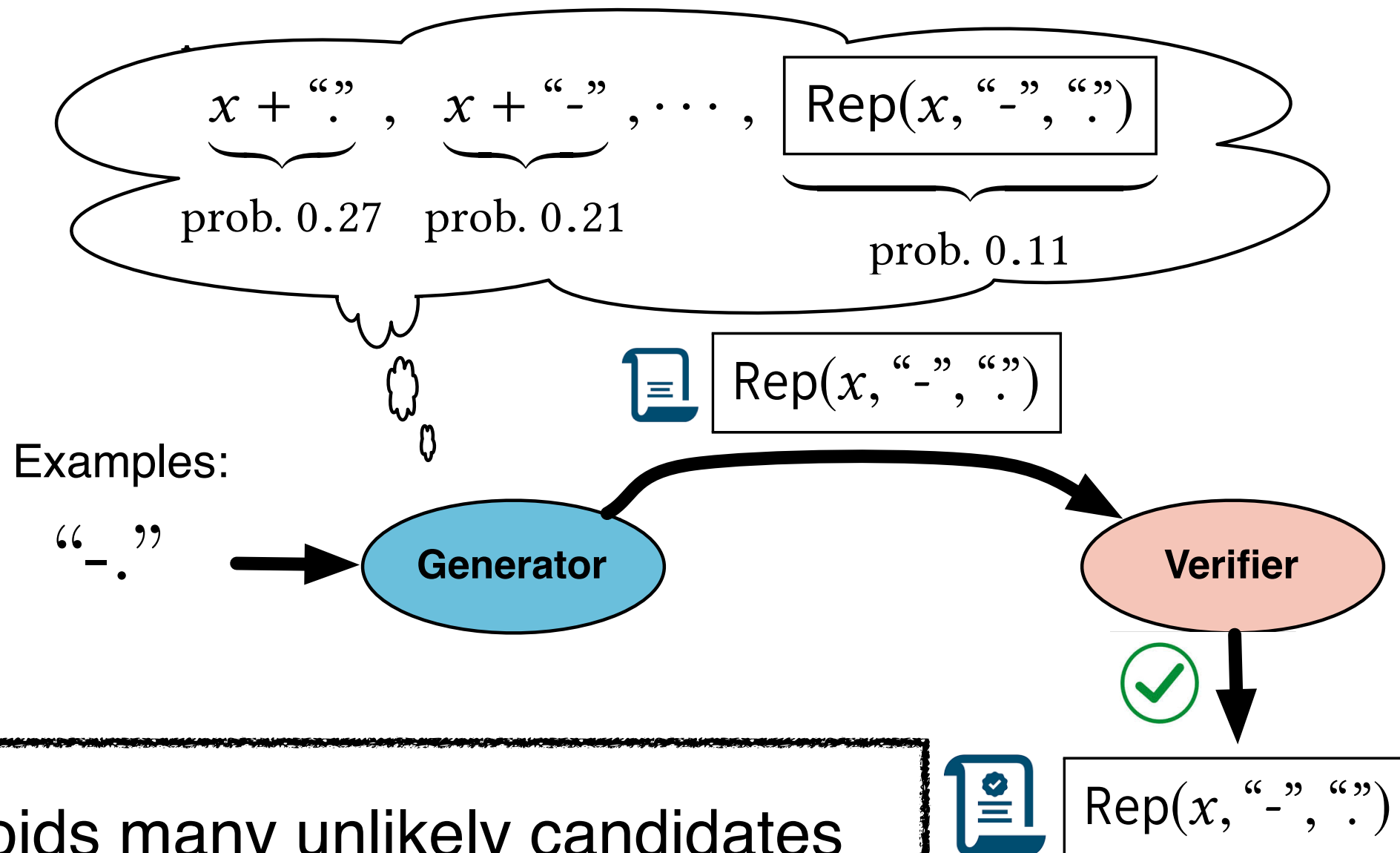
Many unlikely programs (e.g., `“.” + “.”`) are explored.

Enumerative Search: Guided



Enumerates in order of **likelihood** instead of **size**

Enumerative Search: Guided



- Avoids many unlikely candidates
- Preserves the pruning optimization

A Uniform Interface to Statistical Program Models

- Given a sequence of terminal/nonterminal symbols (i.e., sentential form), provide a probability for each production rule

$$Pr(S \rightarrow \text{“.”} \mid \text{Rep}(x, \text{“-”}, S)) = 0.72$$

$$Pr(S \rightarrow \text{“-”} \mid \text{Rep}(x, \text{“-”}, S)) = 0.001$$

...

A Uniform Interface to Statistical Program Models

- Given a sequence of terminal/nonterminal symbols (i.e., sentential form), provide a probability for each production rule
- Determines a probability of a given program (e.g., $x + \text{“.”}$)

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \underline{S} \implies \underline{S + S} \implies \underline{x + S} \implies x + \text{“.”} \\
 \vdots \qquad \qquad \qquad \vdots \qquad \qquad \qquad \vdots \\
 Pr(S \rightarrow S + S \mid S) \\
 \times Pr(S \rightarrow x \mid S + S) \\
 \times Pr(S \rightarrow \text{“.”} \mid x + S)
 \end{array}$$

Examples of Models

- Probabilistic context-free grammar (PCFG)

$$A \rightarrow \beta$$

		P
S	\rightarrow “.”	0.2
S	\rightarrow “_”	0.2
S	\rightarrow x	0.1
S	\rightarrow $S + S$	0.1
S	\rightarrow $\text{Rep}(S, S, S)$	0.4

Examples of Models

- Probabilistic Higher-order Grammar (PHOG) (the model we use)

$$A[\textit{context}] \rightarrow \beta$$

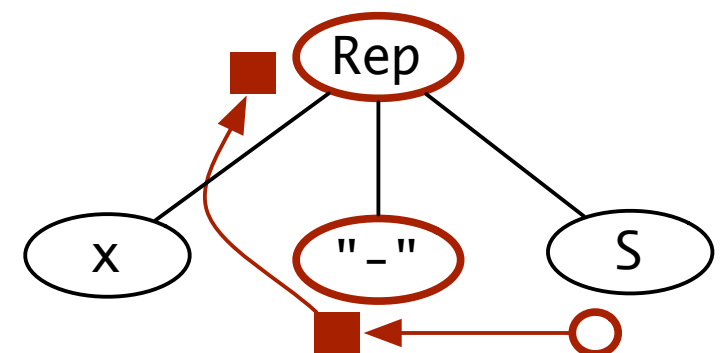
P

$S[-, \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow	$“.”$	0.72
$S[-, \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow	$“-”$	0.001
$S[-, \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow	x	0.12
$S[-, \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow	$S + S$	0.02
$S[-, \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow	$\text{Rep}(S, S, S)$	0.139

...

PHOG when *context* is symbols at
left sibling and **parent**

$$Pr(S \rightarrow “.” \mid \underbrace{\text{Rep}(“x”, “-”, S)}) = 0.72$$

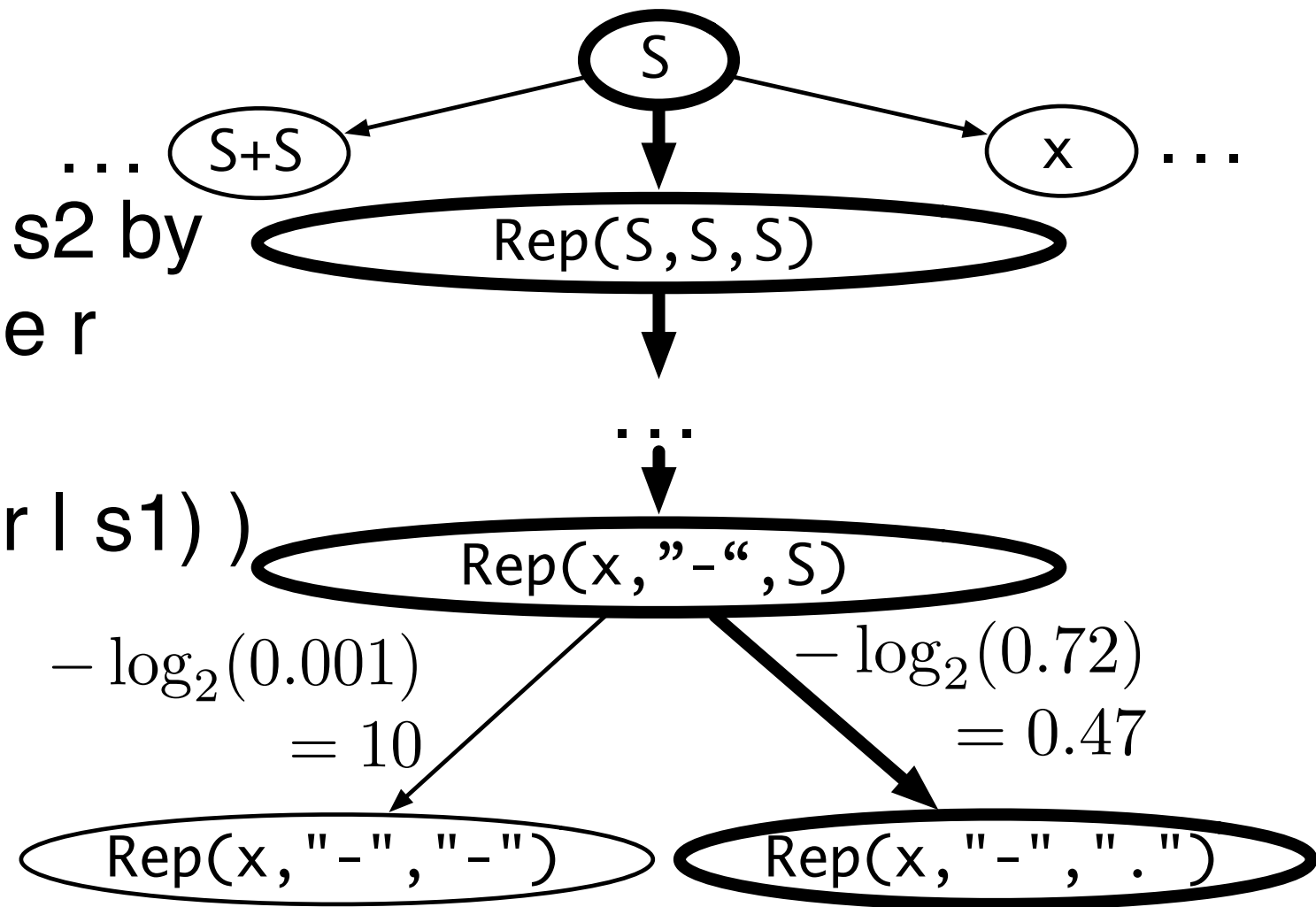


- Others: n-gram, a neural network-based model, log-bilinear model ...

Guided Enumeration via Path Finding

Given a model, we construct a directed graph.

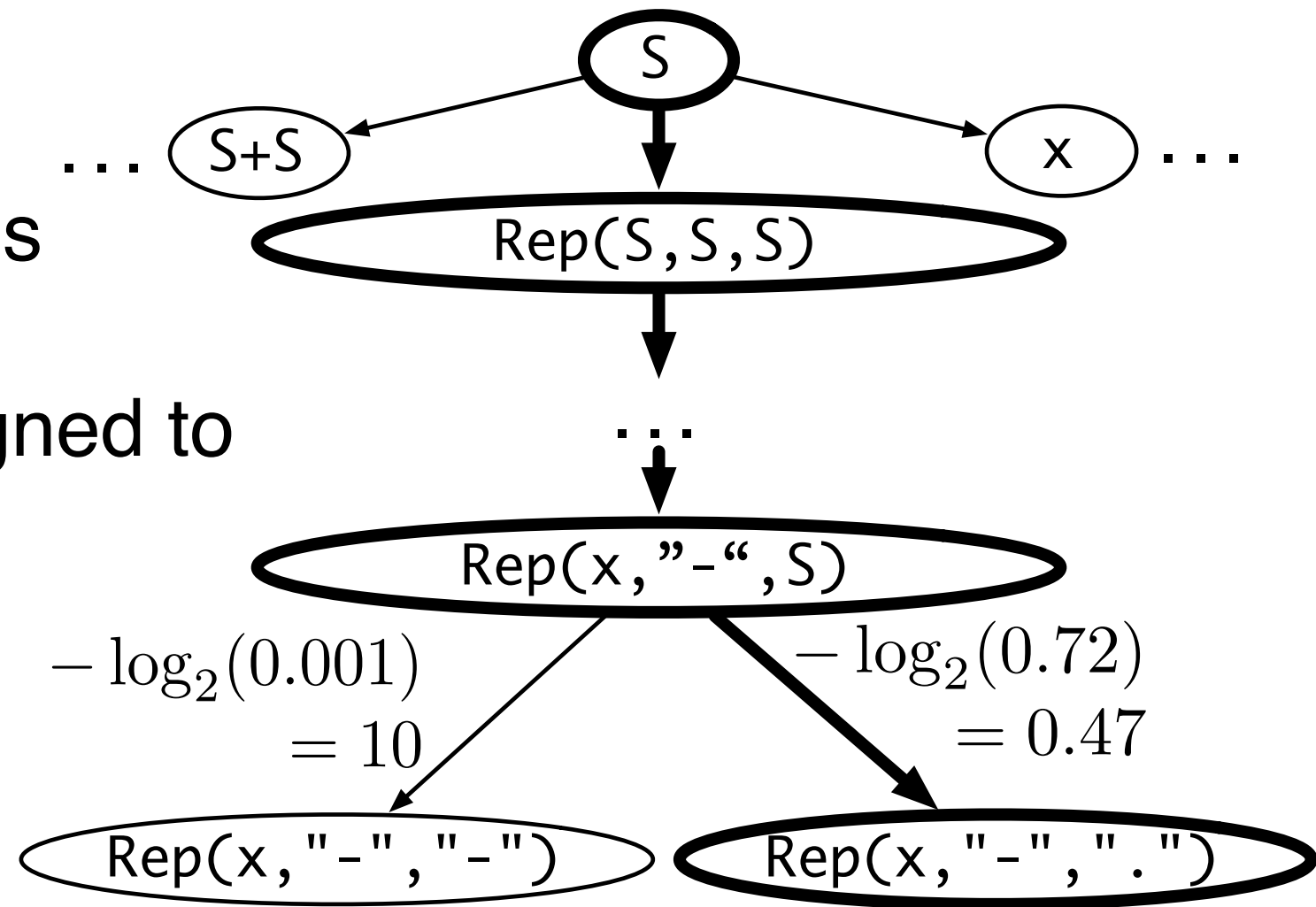
- Nodes: sentential forms
- $s1 \xrightarrow{r} s2$: $s1$ expands to $s2$ by applying a production rule r
- $w(s1 \xrightarrow{r} s2) = -\log (Pr(r | s1))$



Guided Enumeration via Path Finding

Idea: solving a shortest pathfinding problem via A* search

- Start node: S
- Goal nodes: all programs
- A heuristic function designed to work with any model



Problem of Overfitting

- Suppose we are given a similar synthesis problem with the following semantic specification:

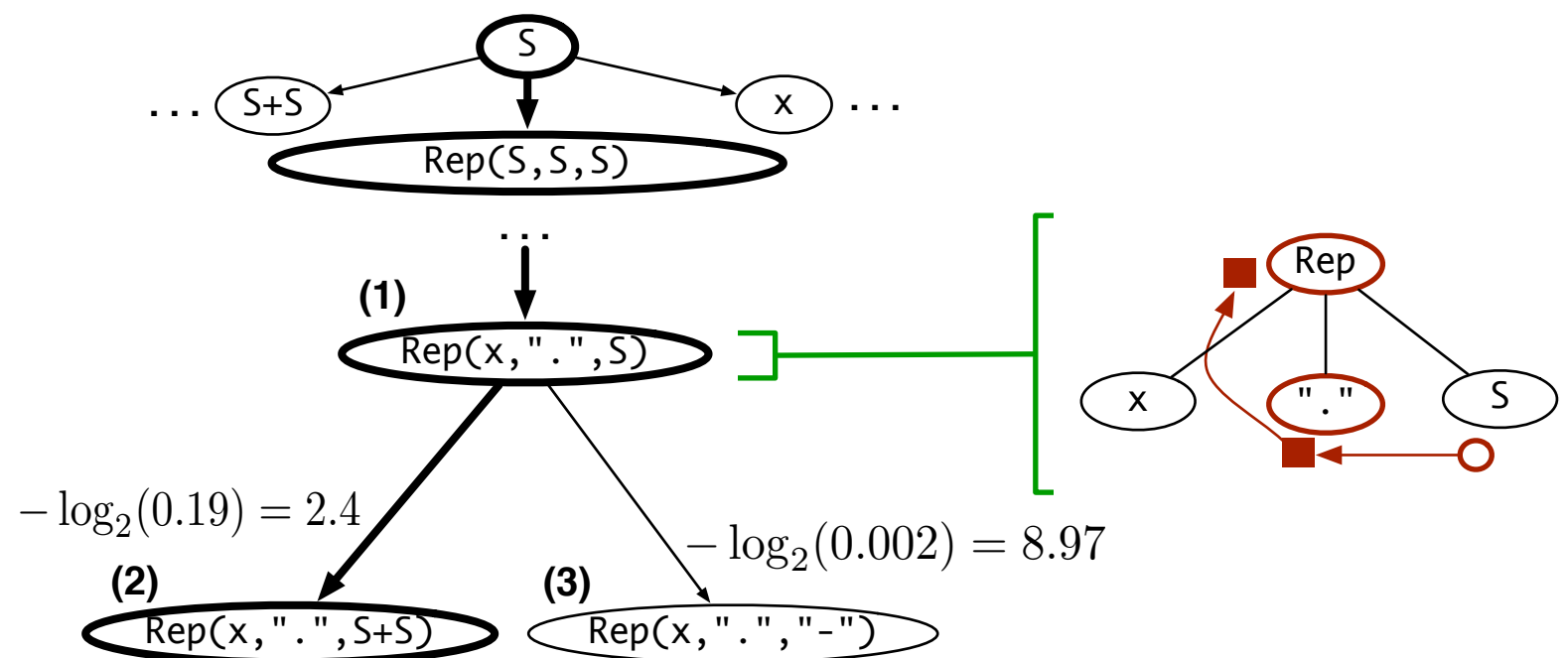
$$f(\text{"12.31"}) = \text{"12-31"} \wedge f(\text{"01.07"}) = \text{"01-07"}.$$

- Desired solution: $\text{Rep}(x, \text{"."}, \text{"-"})$
(the inverse of the previous solution $\text{Rep}(x, \text{"-"}, \text{"."})$).

Problem of Overfitting

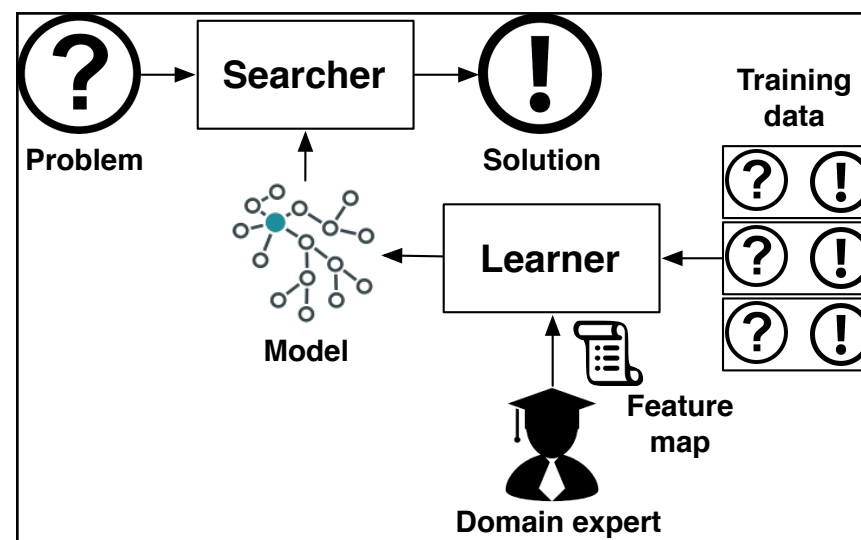
- Suppose we want to complete $\text{Rep}(x, ".", S)$ (node (1))
- Search is not guided toward the solution (node (2) is chosen instead of (3)).

$A[\text{context}] \rightarrow \beta$		P
$S["-", \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow $"."$	0.72
$S["-", \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow $"_-"$	0.001
$S["-", \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow x	0.12
$S["-", \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow $S + S$	0.02
...		P
$S[".", \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow $"."$	0.001
$S[".", \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow $"_-"$	0.002
$S[".", \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow x	0.01
$S[".", \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow $S + S$	0.19
...		



- PHOG sticks to syntactic information, which may lead to overfitting.

Transfer Learning



- Training data: solutions of existing synthesis problems
- Testing data: solutions of unseen synthesis problems
- They may follow different probability distributions because of diverse semantic specifications.
- Transfer learning reduces discrepancy between the probability distributions of training and testing data

Transfer Learning using Common Features

- Spec: $f("-.") = ".." \wedge f("308-916") = "308.916" \wedge f("1") = "1"$

Solution: $\text{Rep}(x, "-", ".")$

A constant string
appearing in the **inputs**

A constant string
appearing in the **outputs**

- Spec: $f("12.31") = "12-31" \wedge f("01.07") = "01-07"$.

Solution: $\text{Rep}(x, ".", "-")$

A constant string
appearing in the **inputs**

A constant string
appearing in the **outputs**

Transfer Learning using Common Features

- Spec: $f("-", ".") = ".." \wedge f("308-916") = "308.916" \wedge f("1") = "1"$

$$\text{Rep}(x, "-", ".") \longrightarrow \text{Rep}(x, \text{const}_I, \text{const}_O)$$

A constant string
appearing in the inputs

A constant string
appearing in the outputs

- Spec: $f("12.31") = "12-31" \wedge f("01.07") = "01-07"$.

$$\text{Rep}(x, ".", "-") \longrightarrow \text{Rep}(x, \text{const}_I, \text{const}_O)$$

Types of Constant Strings

- $\text{const}_{I \cap O}$ represents the set of substrings of all the strings in $I \cap O$
- const_I represents the set of substrings of all the strings in I
- const_O represents the set of substrings of all the strings in O
- const_\perp represents all the remaining strings.

Pivot PHOG

$$\begin{aligned}
 S &\rightarrow x \mid S + S \\
 &\mid \text{Rep}(S, S, S) \\
 &\mid \text{const}_{IO} \mid \text{const}_I \\
 &\mid \text{const}_O \mid \text{const}_\perp
 \end{aligned}$$

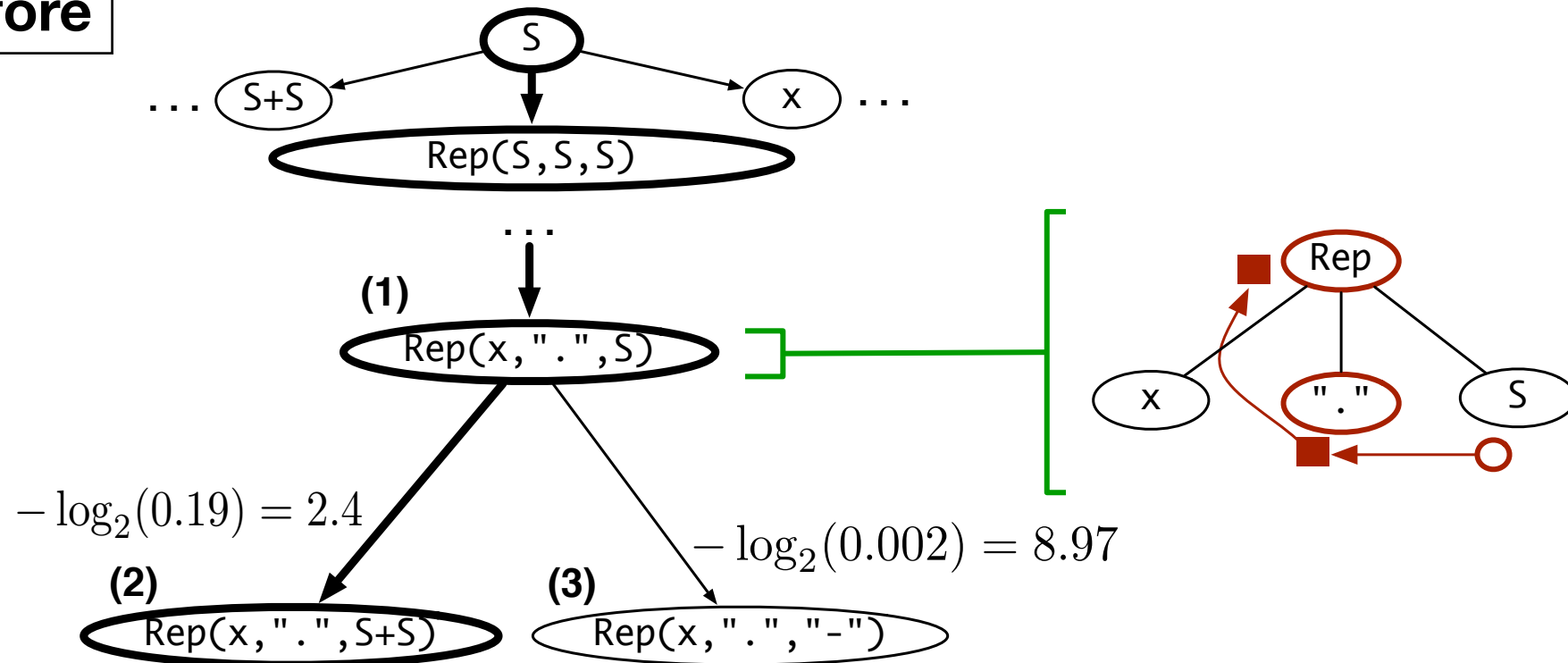
(a) A pivot grammar for string manipulation tasks

$A[\textit{context}^\#] \rightarrow \beta^\#$			P
$S[\text{const}_I, \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow	const_O	0.72
$S[\text{const}_I, \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow	const_I	0.001
$S[\text{const}_I, \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow	x	0.12
$S[\text{const}_I, \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow	$S + S$	0.02
...			P
$S[\text{const}_O, \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow	const_O	0.001
$S[\text{const}_O, \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow	const_I	0.002
$S[\text{const}_O, \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow	x	0.01
$S[\text{const}_O, \text{Rep}]$	\rightarrow	$S + S$	0.19
...			

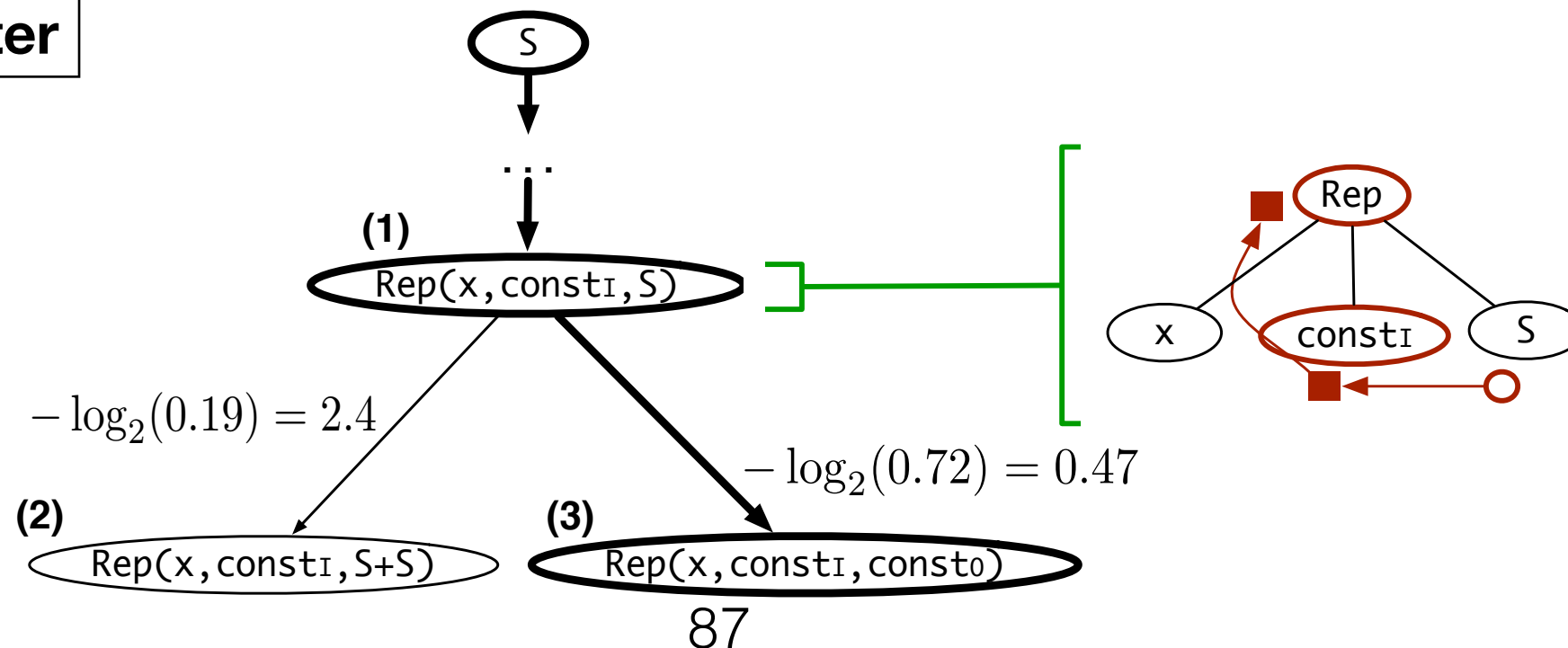
(b) A pivot PHOG learned using the pivot grammar

Search with the Pivot PHOG

Before



After



Talk Outline

- Overall Architecture
- Illustrative Example
- Empirical Evaluation

Evaluation Setup

- Benchmarks:
 - 1,167 problems from 2017 SyGuS competition and online forums
- Comparison to two baselines:
 - EUSolver (general-purpose): winner of 2017 SyGuS competition
 - FlashFill (domain-specific): string processing in spreadsheets

Benchmarks

	A	B	C	D
1	Number	Phone		
2	02082012225	020-8201-2225		
3	02072221236	020-7222-1236		
4	0208123654	020-8123-654		
5	0207236523	020-7236-523		
6	02082012222	020-8201-2222		
7				
8				

STRING: End-user Programming
205 problems

complement

```
~ 010100011101011100000000000001111
   1010111000101000111111111110000
```

bitwise and

```
010100011101011100000000000001111
& 00110001011011100011000101101110
   00010001010001100000000000001110
```

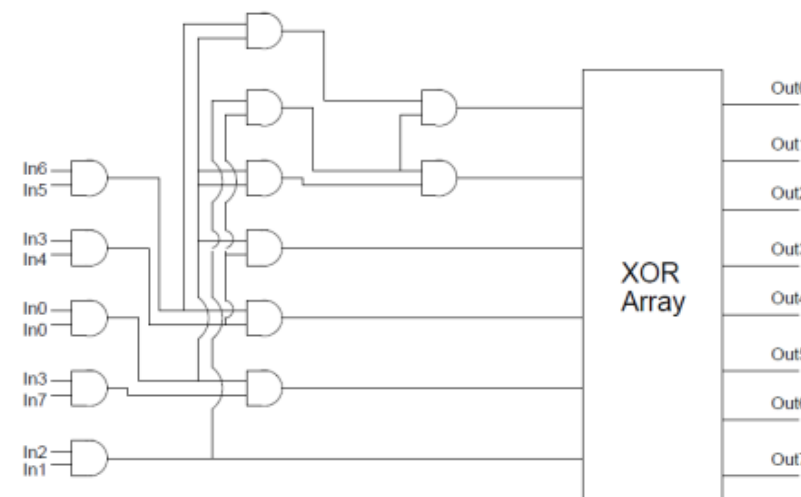
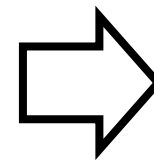
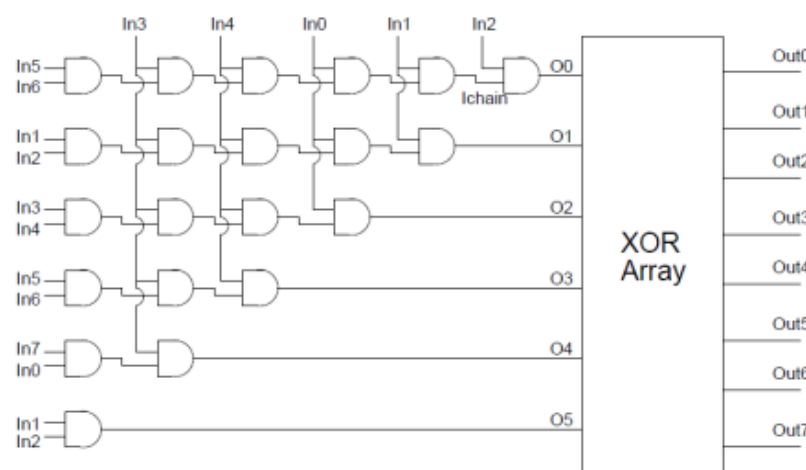
bitwise or

```
010100011101011100000000000001111
| 00110001011011100011000101101110
   011100011111111110011000101101111
```

bitwise xor

```
010100011101011100000000000001111
^ 00110001011011100011000101101110
   01100000101110010011000101100001
```

BITVEC: Efficient low-level algorithm
750 problems

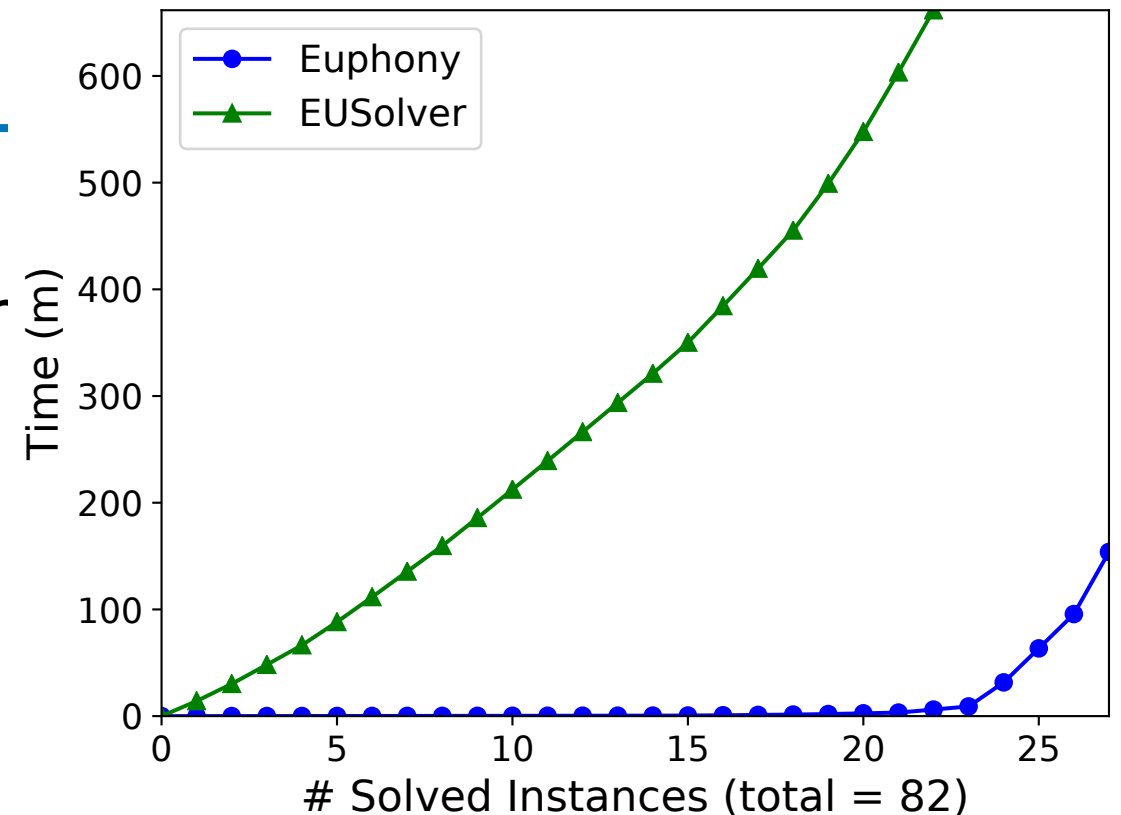


CIRCUIT: Attack-resistant crypto circuits
212 problems

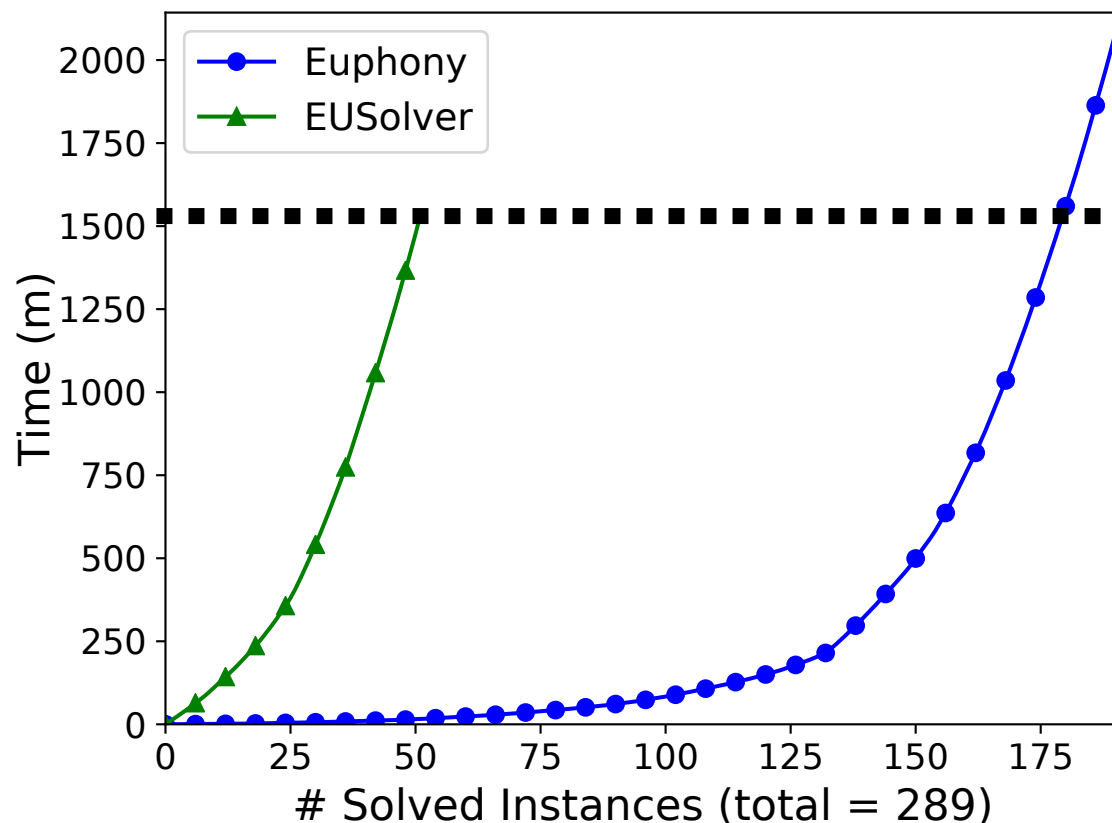
Comparison with EUSolver

- Training: 762 solved by EUSolver in 10 min
- Testing: 405 (timeout: 1 hour)
- # solved: Euphony 236, EUSolver 87

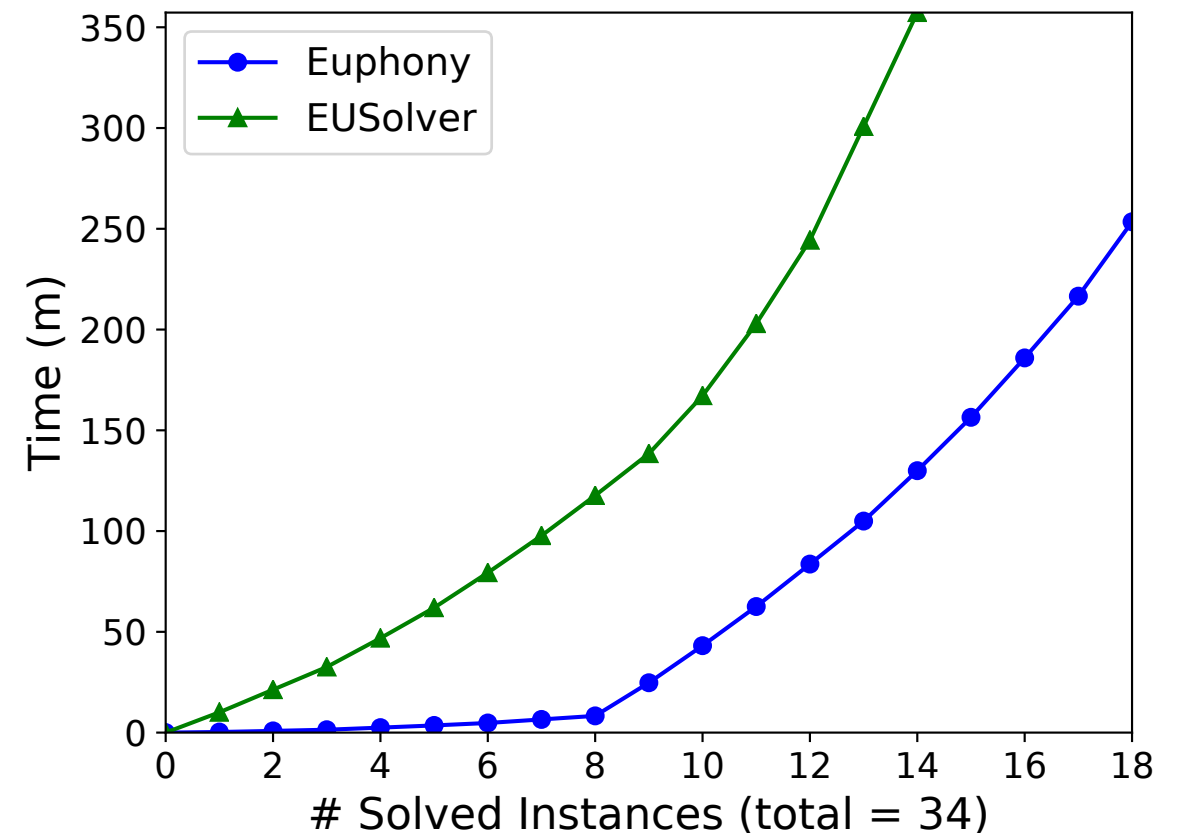
STRING



BITVEC



CIRCUIT

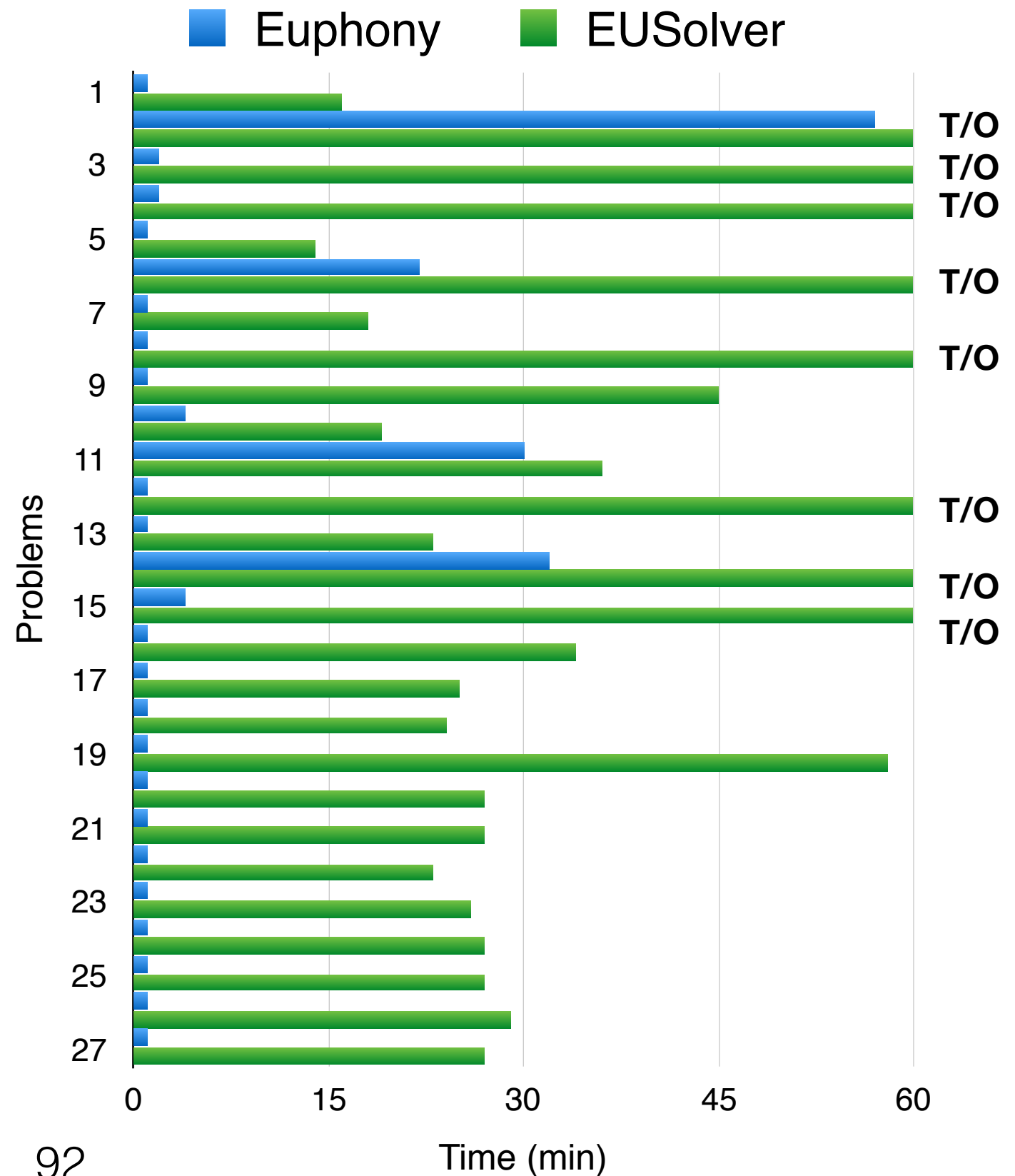


Result for STRING benchmarks

	A	B	C	D
1	Number	Phone		
2	02082012225	020-8201-2225		
3	02072221236	020-7222-1236		
4	0208123654	020-8123-654		
5	0207236523	020-7236-523		
6	02082012222	020-8201-2222		
7				
8				
9				

205 problems (training 123 / testing 82)

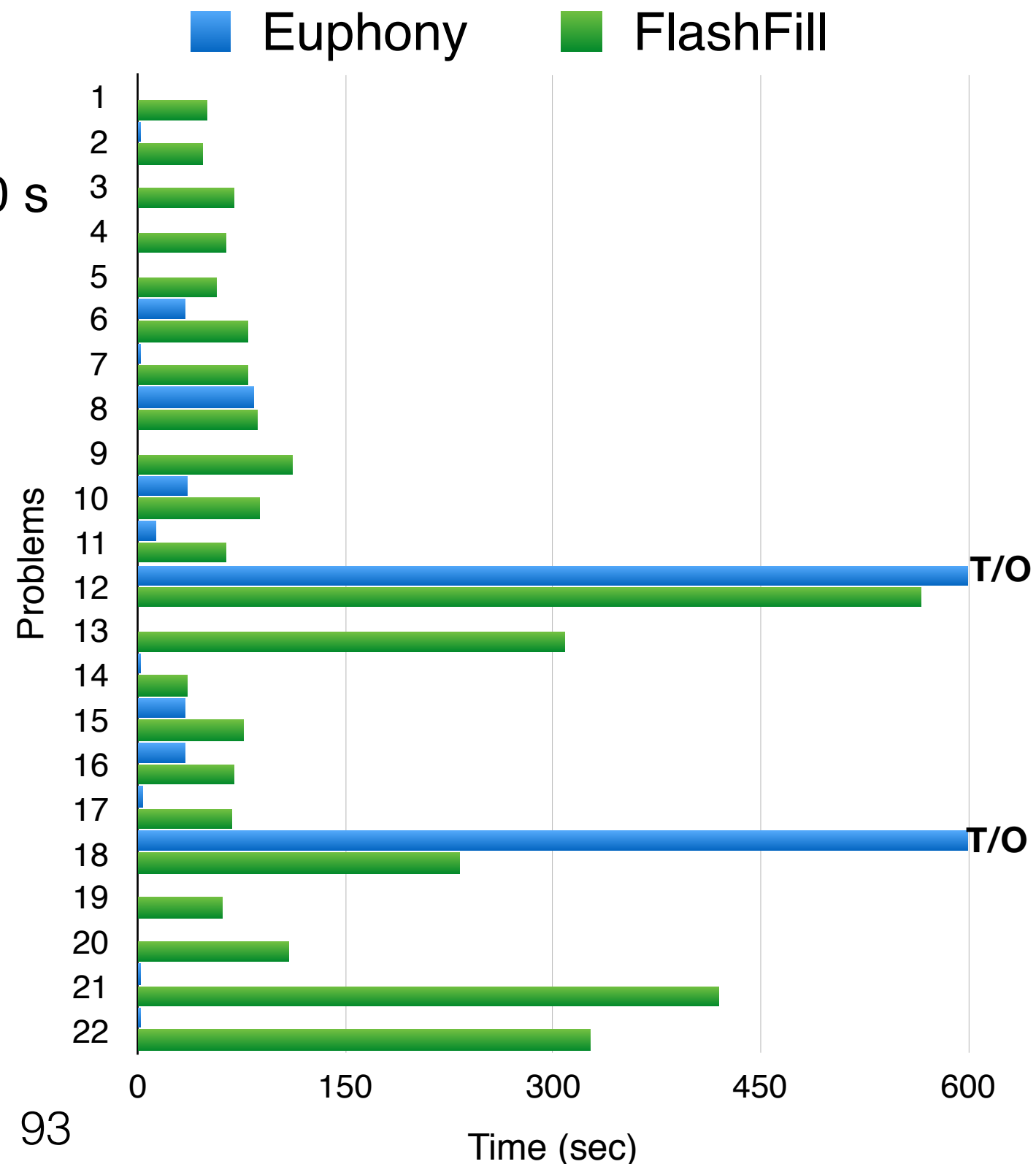
- Euphony solved 78% within 1 min
- solved 8 on which EUSolver timed out
- outperformed EUSolver on all



Comparison with FlashFill (STRING)

- 113 problems handled by FlashFill
- Training: 91 solved by FlashFill in 10 s
- Testing: 22 (timeout: 10 min)
- Euphony outperforms in 20 / 22

	Average	Median
Euphony	13 s	3 s
Flashfill	140 s	78 s



Efficacy of A^* Search

- Using PCFG and PHOG [Bielik et al. ICML'16]

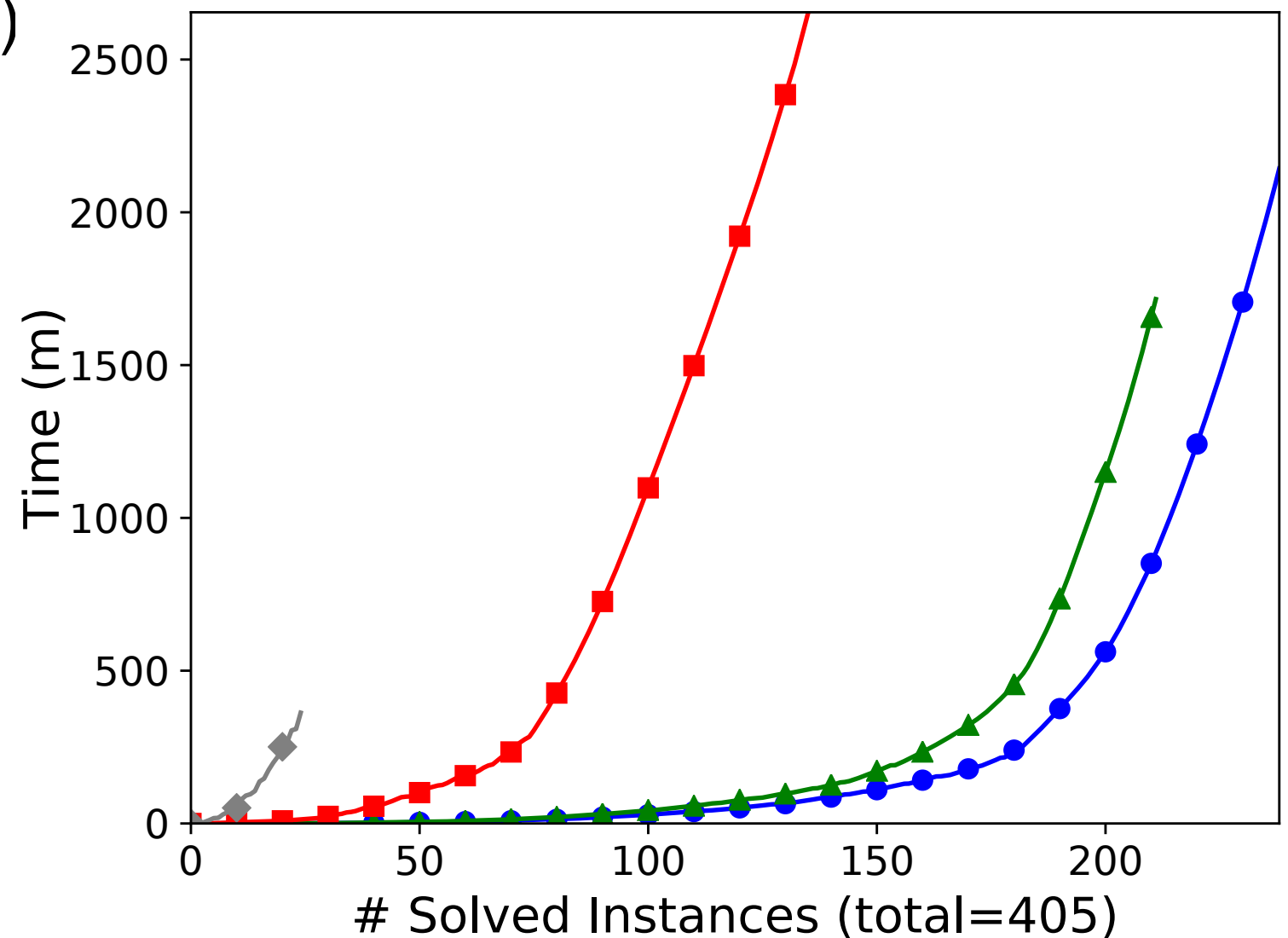
- # Solved (timeout: 1 hour)

A^* + PHOG: 236

Dijkstra + PHOG: 209

A^* + PCFG: 133

Dijkstra + PCFG: 22



In the paper ...

- General heuristic function for A^* search
- How to preserve orthogonal search optimizations
- Feature maps for the three application domains
- Effectiveness of different models

Thank you.