

Applications of Formal Methods to Control Theory and Dynamical Systems

Carnegie Mellon University

### $\mathbb{R}$ eal Problems on the Road

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1. Problem: How to show that our system is safe?



How do we know that our system is safe?



How do we know that our system is safe?





#### **Road Testing?**





## Driving to Safety

### How Many Miles of Driving Would It Take to Demonstrate Autonomous Vehicle Reliability?

Nidhi Kalra, Susan M. Paddock

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\_reports/RR1478.html

#### AVs WOULD HAVE TO BE TEST-DRIVEN ASTRONOMICAL DISTANCES TO SHOW THEY ARE 20 PERCENT BETTER THAN HUMAN DRIVERS AT . . .

NOTE: Confidence interval = 95%. Times provided assume a fleet of 100 test AVs driving continuously at an average of 25 mph. Crash and injury rates used here include policereported incidents and estimates of unreported incidents.

GREEN CAR: MONICAODO/GETTYIMAGES; SMALL CAR: CHOMBOSAN/FOTOLIA

Earth

**AVOIDING FATALITIES** 



Adapted from *Driving to Safety: How Many Miles of Driving Would It Take to Demonstrate Autonomous Vehicle Reliability?* by Nidhi Kalra and Susan M. Paddock, RR-1478-RC, 2016, available at www.rand.org/t/RR1478. The RAND Corporation is a research organization that develops solutions to public policy challenges to help make communities throughout the world safer and more secure, healthier and more prosperous. RAND is nonprofit, nonpartisan, and committed to the public interest.

www.rand.org

**AVOIDING CRASHES 28 million miles** or 1.3 years

**AVOIDING INJURIES 170 million miles** or 3.2 years

If this graphic were drawn to scale, Neptune would be in the next room

5 billion miles (about the distance of a round trip to Neptune) or 225 years
Neptune

2015 fatality data are from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics

IG-128 https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\_reports/RR1478.html

How to accelerate the testing process?





### Plant / Physics Model











#### Need a simulator to test a system



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## RGB



PRG6: Essentials			
Speed			
Speed			
Gear			
RPM			
Steering			
Brake			
Throttle			
	60	70	













Simulation = Black-Box Testing



Simulation = Black-Box Testing

#### **Keep simulating**





Simulation = Black-Box Testing





#### **APEX:** Autonomous Vehicle Plan Verification and Execution

Randomized testing, where the configurations are sampled from hypercubes of parameters, is not a scalable solution: suppose we decide to sample only 10 points in the range of every state variable. For our 7D model, and with 2 cars, this yields a total of  $10^{14}$  simulations. Say we wish to simulate 10 seconds. Even if a simulation runs in real-time, this still requires  $10*10^{14}$ seconds = 30 million years to complete.

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Sicun Gao MIT

#### Shin'ichi Shiraishi

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#### **Rahul Mangharam**

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### **APEX:** Autonomous Vehicle Plan Verification and Execution

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Want to do: Accelerated Testing (e.g. concolic testing) / Verification / Synthesis => Need symbolic representation of a system

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2. Modeling Language



- **C++ Library** which you can:
- Model dynamical systems
- Simulate dynamical systems with a suite of numerical integration routines
- Construct and solve optimization problems
- Analysis dynamical systems
  - (local stability/controllability/observability analysis)
- Planning, Controller design, ...









### Diagram = A Graph of Systems = A System

## Diagram



# **Templated System Framework**

System<T> where T can be:

- double for Simulation / Testing





# **Templated System Framework**

System<T> where T can be:

- double for Si
- AutoDiff for Op



for Simulation / Testing

for Optimization-based Analysis & Design



# **Templated System Framework**

System<T> where T can be:

- double
- AutoDiff

for Symbolic Analysis & Verification (e.g. SMT) - symbolic::Expression



for Simulation / Testing

for Optimization-based Analysis & Design

$$x) = x^3 + 4x^2 - 5x + 6$$



3.  $\mathbb{R}$ eal Problems

# First-order encoding of $\mathbb{R}$ eal problems in control domain

• Planning / Reachability



$$\exists \vec{x}_{0}, \vec{x}_{1}, \dots, \vec{x}_{k} \exists \vec{x}_{0}^{t}, \vec{x}_{1}^{t}, \dots, \vec{x}_{k}^{t} \exists t_{0}, t_{1}, \dots, t_{k} \\ Init(\vec{x}_{0}) \land flow_{q_{0}}(\vec{x}_{0}, \vec{x}_{0}^{t}, t_{0}) \land jump_{q_{0} \rightarrow q_{1}}(\vec{x}_{0}^{t}, \vec{x}_{1}) \land \\ flow_{q_{1}}(\vec{x}_{1}, \vec{x}_{1}^{t}, t_{1}) \land jump_{q_{1} \rightarrow q_{2}}(\vec{x}_{1}^{t}, \vec{x}_{2}) \land$$

• • •

 $flow_{q_k}(\vec{x}_k, \vec{x}_k^t, t_k) \wedge Unsafe(\vec{x}_k^t)$ 

## First-order encoding of problems in control domain

- Planning / Reachability (3)
- Trajectory Optimization / Optimal Control



Cannon position

Find launch conditions that minimize launch energy while hitting the target

## First-order encoding of problems in control domain

- Planning / Reachability (3)
- Trajectory Optimization / Optimal Control

Target (x\_T, y\_T)

Cannon position

Find launch conditions that minimize launch energy while hitting the target

 $\min f(\mathbf{x}) \text{ s.t. } \phi(\mathbf{x})$ => Constrained Optimization Problem j is logically  $\exists \mathbf{x}. \forall \mathbf{y}. \ \phi(\mathbf{x}) \land \phi(\mathbf{y}) \to f(\mathbf{x}) \leq f(\mathbf{y})$ 

## First-order encoding of problems in control domain

- Planning / Reachability (3)
- Trajectory Optimization / Optimal Control (∃∀)
- Lyapunov-function (stability) / Barrier certificate (safety)



Find a function,  $\mathbf{B}: X \rightarrow R$ , which satisfies the following conditions to show that it is **not** possible to have a trajectory starting in **X0** and reaching **Unsafe**:

$$\forall x \in X_0 \implies B(x) \le 0$$
  
$$\forall x \in U \implies B(x) > 0$$
  
$$B(x) = 0 \implies \frac{\partial B}{\partial x} f(x) \le 0$$
# First-order encoding of problems in control domain

- Planning / Reachability (3)
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- Lyapunov-function / Barrier certificate (∃∀)

# First-order encoding of problems in control domain

- Planning / Reachability (3)
- Trajectory Optimization / Optimal Control (∃∀)
- Lyapunov-function / Barrier certificate (∃∀)
- Robust Optimal Control / Robust Optimization (∃∀∃)

Minimize c(x)s.t. g(x, u) for all  $u \in U$ .

Encoding:

 $\begin{aligned} \exists x. \; (\forall u \in U. \; g(x, \, u)) \land (\forall y. \; (\forall u \in U. \; g(y, \, u)) \Rightarrow c(x) \leq c(y)) \\ => \exists x. \; (\forall u \in U. \; g(x, \, u)) \land (\forall y. \; (\exists u \in U. \; \neg g(y, \, u)) \lor (c(x) \leq c(y))) \end{aligned}$ 

4. How to Solve it?

### Decision Problems over the Reals

$$\varphi = Q_1^{[l_1, u_1]} x_1 \dots Q_n^{[l_n, u_n]} x_n. \ \bigwedge_i \left( \bigvee_j f_{i,j}(\vec{x}) > 0 \lor \bigvee_k f_{i,k}(\vec{x}) \ge 0 \right)$$

- Complexity results of non-linear arithmetic over the Reals **Decidable** if  $\varphi$  only contains polynomials [Tarski51] • **Undecidable** if  $\varphi$  includes trigonometric functions (i.e. sin) •
- Real-world problems contain complex nonlinear • functions (trigonometric functions, log, exp, ODEs)

Given an arbitrary first-order sentence over  $\langle \mathbb{R}, \geq, \mathcal{F} \rangle$ , such as

where  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ , can we compute whether  $\varphi$  is true or false?

## Delta-decision Problem

- - **UNSAT**:  $\varphi$  is unsatisfiable
  - **\delta-SAT** :  $\varphi^{-\delta}$  is satisfiable.

$$\varphi^{-\delta} = Q_1^{[l_1, u_1]} x_1 \dots Q_n^{[l_n, u_n]} x_n. \quad \bigwedge_i \left( \bigvee_j f_{i,j}(\vec{x}) > -\delta \lor \bigvee_j f_{i,k}(\vec{x}) \ge -\delta \right)$$

- functions [LICS12]
- functions) or **PSPACE** (with Lipschitz ODEs) [LICS12]

• Given a first-order formula over the Real, arphi , and a positive rational number  $\delta$  , **delta-decision problem** asks for one of the following answers:

where  $\varphi^{-\delta}$  is called the  $\delta$ -weakening of  $\varphi$  which is formally defined as follows:

It is shown that this problem is **decidable** for signatures with computable

• The **complexity** for existential problems is **NP** (with P-time computable)

## Design of Solver: Big Picture



SAT solver finds a satisfying Boolean assignment
Theory solver checks whether the assignment is feasible under the first order theory of Real

# Design of Solver: Big Picture



Boolean Search Non-chronological Backtracking Learning

(Discrete Domain)

• • •

Constraints Solving Validated Numerics Optimization Simulation/Sampling

(Continuous Domain)

## Top-down/Bottom Approaches in Theory Solver



#### Top-Down Approach

Maintain a set of possible solutions Useful to show UNSAT Validated Numerics (i.e. Interval-based methods)



#### Bottom-Up Approach

Sample points and test them Useful to show **SAT** Use local-optimization to improve

### An Algorithm in Theory Solver: ICP(Interval Constraint Propagation)



### Pruning

Safely **reduce** a search space without removing solutions

### Branch

**Partition** a search space into two sub-spaces

## Two Termination Conditions of ICP



δ-sat



# **ICP Algorithm**

**Algorithm 1:** Theory Solving in DPLL(ICP) **input** : A conjunction of theory atoms, seen as constraints, output:  $\delta$ -sat, or unsat with learned conflict clauses. 1  $S.\operatorname{push}(B_0);$ 2 while  $S \neq \emptyset$  do  $B \leftarrow S.pop();$ 3 while  $\exists 1 \leq i \leq m, B \neq \text{Prune}(B, c_i)$  do 4 5  $B \leftarrow \operatorname{Prune}(B, c_i);$ end 6 7 functions beforehand. if  $B \neq \emptyset$  then 8 if  $\exists 1 \leq i \leq n, |I_i| \geq \varepsilon$  then 9 10  $S.push(\{B_1, B_2\});$ else11  $\mathbf{12}$  $\mathbf{end}$ 13  $\mathbf{14}$ end 15 end 16 return unsat;

 $c_1(x_1,...,x_n),...,c_m(x_1,...,x_n)$ , the initial interval bounds on all variables  $B^0 = I_1^0 \times \cdots \times I_n^0$ , box stack  $S = \emptyset$ , and precision  $\delta \in \mathbb{Q}^+$ .



**5. How to Solve**  $\exists \forall$ 

### Delta-Decision Procedures for Exists-Forall Problems over the Reals

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Abstract. We propose  $\delta$ -complete decision procedures for solving satisfiability of nonlinear SMT problems over real numbers that contain universal quantification and a wide range of nonlinear functions. The methods combine interval constraint propagation, counterexample-guided synthesis, and numerical optimization. In particular, we show how to handle the interleaving of numerical and symbolic computation to ensure deltacompleteness in quantified reasoning. We demonstrate that the proposed algorithms can handle various challenging global optimization and control synthesis problems that are beyond the reach of existing solvers.



where  $\phi$  can include an arbitrary **Boolean** combination of numerically computable functions (e.g. sin, cos, exp)

## Problem

 $\exists x . \forall y . \varphi(x, y)$ 

We can encode the following problems:

#### - Optimization

- Non-linear / Non-convex
- Global
- Constrained

#### - Synthesis

- Program

## Problem

 $\exists x . \forall y . \varphi(x, y)$ 

- Controller (e.g. Lyapunov function, Barrier function)



## Simple Case: **Unconstrained Global Optimization** $\exists x . \forall y . f(x) \leq f(y)$

Finding the **exact** global optimum is **undecidable** when we allow functions such as sin, cos.



f(x)

Remark:

### Simple Case: **Unconstrained Global Optimization**

Instead, we want to find a small interval I such that forall x in I :

Note that this problem is **decidable** ( $\Sigma_1$ )



 $\forall y . f(x) \le f(y) + \delta$ 

## Idea 1: Counterexample Refinement

Find a **counterexample** y such that for an x in I<sup>1</sup>







f(x) > f(y)

# Finding a Counterexample



How do we find such y? Note that the problem is in general **undecidable** again.

We use **delta-decision solver** to find a counterexample:

f(x) > f(y)

Solve( $f(x) > f(y), \delta'$ )

## Problem of spurious counterexamples

Consider a  $\delta$ -SAT case where Solve(f(x) > f(y),  $\delta$ ') finds (x, y) such that:



Spurious counterexamples give **NO** pruning power.

## Idea 2: Double-sided Error Control

Instead of solving the following to counterexample:

Solve the following which strengthened the CE query by  $\varepsilon$ :

Q: How to pick  $\delta'$  and  $\varepsilon$  given  $\delta$ ?

Solve( $f(x) > f(y), \delta'$ )

Solve( $f(x) > f(y) + \epsilon, \delta'$ )

# Idea 2: Double-sided Error Control Solve( $f(x) > f(y) + \epsilon, \delta'$ )

UNSAT CASE:

 $\forall y \, f(x) \leq f(y) + \epsilon$ 

Note that we wanted to satisfy:

 $\forall y . f(x) \le f(y) + \delta$ 

So we have:

 $\epsilon < \delta$ 





### Idea 2: Double-sided Error Control Solve( $f(x) > f(y) + \epsilon, \delta'$ ) $\delta$ -SAT CASE: We have (x, y) such that: $f(x) + \delta' > f(y) + \epsilon$ $f(x) > f(y) + (\epsilon - \delta')$ f(x)τ ε - δ' f(y) We want this to be a true counterexample: $\epsilon - \delta' > 0$ That is, $\delta' < \epsilon$ Χ У



## Idea 2: Double-sided Error Control

Instead of solving the following to counterexample:

Solve the following which strengthened the CE query by  $\varepsilon$ :

Q: How to pick  $\delta'$  and  $\varepsilon$  given  $\delta$ ?



Solve( $f(x) > f(y), \delta'$ )

Solve( $f(x) > f(y) + \epsilon, \delta'$ )

 $\delta' < \epsilon < \delta$ 

## Idea 2: Double-sided Error Control

Algorithm 2 ∀-Clause Pruning

1:	function PRUNE $(B_x, B_y, \forall y \bigvee$
2:	repeat
3:	$B_x^{ ext{prev}} \leftarrow B_x$
4:	$\psi \leftarrow \bigwedge_i f_i(x, y) < 0$
5:	$\psi^{+\varepsilon} \leftarrow Strengthen(\psi, \varepsilon)$
6:	$b \leftarrow Solve(y, \psi^{+\varepsilon}, \delta')$
7:	$\mathbf{if} \ b = \emptyset \ \mathbf{then}$
8:	return $B_x$
9:	end if
10:	for $i \in \{0,, k\}$ do
11:	$B_i \leftarrow B_x \cap Prune\Big(B_x$
12:	end for
13:	$B_x \leftarrow \bigsqcup_{i=0}^k B_i$
14:	until $B_x \neq B_x^{\text{prev}}$
15:	return $B_x$
16:	end function

 $\int_{i=0}^{k} f_i(x, y) \ge 0, \, \delta', \, \varepsilon, \, \delta$ 

 $\triangleright \ 0 < \delta' < \varepsilon < \delta \text{ should hold.}$ 

▷ No counterexample found, stop pruning.

 $_{v}, f_{i}(x,b) \ge 0 \Big)$ 



Global Minimum

Хз

**X**2

X1

**X**0

(a) Without local optimization.

Fig. 1: Illustrations of the pruning algorithm for  $\text{CNF}^{\forall}$ -formula with and without using local optimization.

## Idea 3: Local Optimization



(b) With local optimization.

### **Case Study: Nonlinear Global Optimization**







(e) Ripple 1 Function.

(f) Testtube Holder Function.

## **Case Study: Nonlinear Global Optimization**

Namo	Solution			Time (sec)		
INAIIIE	Global	No L-Opt.	L-Opt.	No L-Opt.	L-Opt.	Speed Up
Ackley 2D	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.0579	0.0047	12.32
Ackley 4D	0.00000	0.00005	0.00000	8.2256	0.1930	42.62
Aluffi Pentini	-0.35230	-0.35231	-0.35239	0.0321	0.1868	0.17
Beale	0.00000	0.00003	0.00000	0.0317	0.0615	0.52
Bohachevsky1	0.00000	0.00006	0.00000	0.0094	0.0020	4.70
Booth	0.00000	0.00006	0.00000	0.5035	0.0020	251.75
Brent	0.00000	0.00006	0.00000	0.0095	0.0017	5.59
Bukin6	0.00000	0.00003	0.00003	0.0093	0.0083	1.12
Cross in Tray	-2.06261	-2.06254	-2.06260	0.5669	0.1623	3.49
Easom	-1.00000	-1.00000	-1.00000	0.0061	0.0030	2.03
EggHolder	-959.64070	-959.64030	-959.64031	0.0446	0.0211	2.11
Holder Table2	-19.20850	-19.20846	-19.20845	52.9152	41.7004	1.27
Levi N13	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.1383	0.0034	40.68
Ripple 1	-2.20000	-2.20000	-2.20000	0.0059	0.0065	0.91
Schaffer F6	0.00000	0.00004	0.00000	0.0531	0.0056	9.48
Testtube Holder	-10.87230	-10.87227	-10.87230	0.0636	0.0035	18.17
Trefethen	-3.30687	-3.30681	-3.30685	3.0689	1.4916	2.06
W Wavy	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.1234	0.0138	8.94
Zettl	-0.00379	-0.00375	-0.00379	0.0070	0.0069	1.01
Rosenbrock Cubic	0.00000	0.00005	0.00002	0.0045	0.0036	1.25
Rosenbrock Disk	0.00000	0.00002	0.00000	0.0036	0.0028	1.29
Mishra Bird	-106.76454	-106.76449	-106.76451	1.8496	0.9122	2.03
Townsend	-2.02399	-2.02385	-2.02390	2.6216	0.5817	4.51
Simionescu	-0.07262	-0.07199	-0.07200	0.0064	0.0048	1.33

compared the results. We chose  $\delta = 0.0001$  for all instances.

Table 1: Experimental results for nonlinear global optimization problems: The first 19 problems (Ackley 2D – Zettl) are unconstrained optimization problems and the last five problems (Rosenbrock Cubic – Simionescu) are constrained optimization problems. We ran our prototype solver over those instances with and without local-optimization option ("L-Opt." and "No L-Opt." columns) and

### **Case Study: Synthesizing Lyapunov Function**

**Problem:** Find a Lyapunov function for a dynamical system,  $v : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ , which satisfies the following condition:

- $\forall \boldsymbol{x} \in X \ \nabla v(\boldsymbol{x}(t))^T \cdot f_i(\boldsymbol{x}(t)) \leq 0.$

where the system is described by a system of ODEs:

 $\forall \boldsymbol{x} \in X \setminus \boldsymbol{0} \ v(\boldsymbol{x})(\boldsymbol{0}) = 0$ 

 $\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}(t) = f_i(\boldsymbol{x}(t)), \quad \forall \boldsymbol{x}(t) \in X_i.$ 

## Case Study: Synthesizing Lyapunov Function

**Normalized Pendulum** Given a standard pendulum system with normalized parameters

 $\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ -\sin(x_1) - x_2 \end{bmatrix}$ 

and a quadratic template for a Lyapunov function  $v(\boldsymbol{x}) = \boldsymbol{x}^T \boldsymbol{P} \boldsymbol{x} = c_1 x_1 x_2 + c_2 x_1^2 + c_3 x_2^2$ , we can encode this synthesis problem into the following  $\exists \forall$ -formula:

$$\exists c_1 c_2 c_3 \ \forall x_1 x_2 \ \left[ ((50c_3 x_1 x_2 + 50x_1^2 c_1 + 50x_2^2 c_2 > 0.5) \land \\ (100c_1 x_1 x_2 + 50x_2 c_3 + (-x_2 - \sin(x_1)(50x_1 c_3 + 100x_2 c_2)) < -0.5)) \lor \\ \neg ((0.01 \le x_1^2 + x_2^2) \land (x_1^2 + x_2^2 \le 1)) \right]$$

Our prototype solver takes 44.184 seconds to synthesize the following function as a solution to the problem for the bound  $||\mathbf{x}|| \in [0.1, 1.0]$  and  $c_i \in [0.1, 100]$ using  $\delta = 0.05$ :

 $v = 40.6843x_1x_2 + 35.6870x_1^2 + 84.3906x_2^2.$ 

## Case Study: Synthesizing Lyapunov Function

**Damped Mathieu System** Mathieu dynamics are time-varying and defined by the following ODEs:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \\ -x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Using a quadratic template for a Lyapunov function  $v(\boldsymbol{x}) = \boldsymbol{x}^T \boldsymbol{P} \boldsymbol{x} = c_1 x_1 x_2 + c_2 x_1^2 + c_3 x_2^2$ , we can encode this synthesis problem into the following  $\exists \forall$ -formula:

$$\exists c_1 c_2 c_3 \ \forall x_1 x_2 t \ [(50x_1 x_2 c_2 + 50x_1^2 c_1 + 50x_2^2 c_3 > 0) \land \\ (100c_1 x_1 x_2 + 50x_2 c_2 + (-x_2 - x_1(2 + \sin(t)))(50x_1 c_2 + 100x_2 c_3) < 0) \\ \lor \neg ((0.01 \le x_1^2 + x_2^2) \land (0.1 \le t) \land (t \le 1) \land (x_1^2 + x_2^2 \le 1))]$$

Our prototype solver takes 26.533 seconds to synthesize the following function as a solution to the problem for the bound  $||\mathbf{x}|| \in [0.1, 1.0], t \in [0.1, 1.0]$ , and  $c_i \in [45, 98]$  using  $\delta = 0.05$ :

 $V = 54.6950x_1x_2 + 90.2849x_1^2 + 50.5376x_2^2.$ 

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ -(2+\sin(t))x_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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4. Find a good modeling tool so that you can extract symbolic representations.

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For verification, using delta-weakening allows us to fix "near-failure" systems. For synthesis, a dual notion of delta-strengthening produces robust designs.

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- 1. Road Testing is expensive & not scalable.
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- 4. Find a good modeling tool so that you can extract symbolic representations.
- 5. Many interesting control problems can be encoded into first-order logic formulas.
- 6. Delta-decision problems:

7. We have an implementation (dReal) which can handle  $\exists$  and  $\exists\forall$  formulas. ( $\exists \forall \exists$  support is work-in-progress).

- For verification, using delta-weakening allows us to fix "near-failure" systems.
- For synthesis, a dual notion of delta-strengthening produces robust designs.