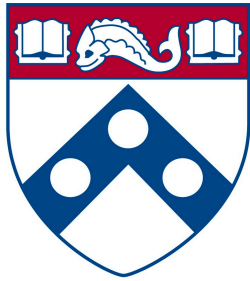


# Deep Reinforcement Learning for Program Verification and Synthesis

Xujie Si, Hanjun Dai, Yuan Yang, Mukund Raghothaman, Mayur Naik, Le Song



University of Pennsylvania  
Georgia Institute of Technology



# The Success of Deep Reinforcement Learning

Reward

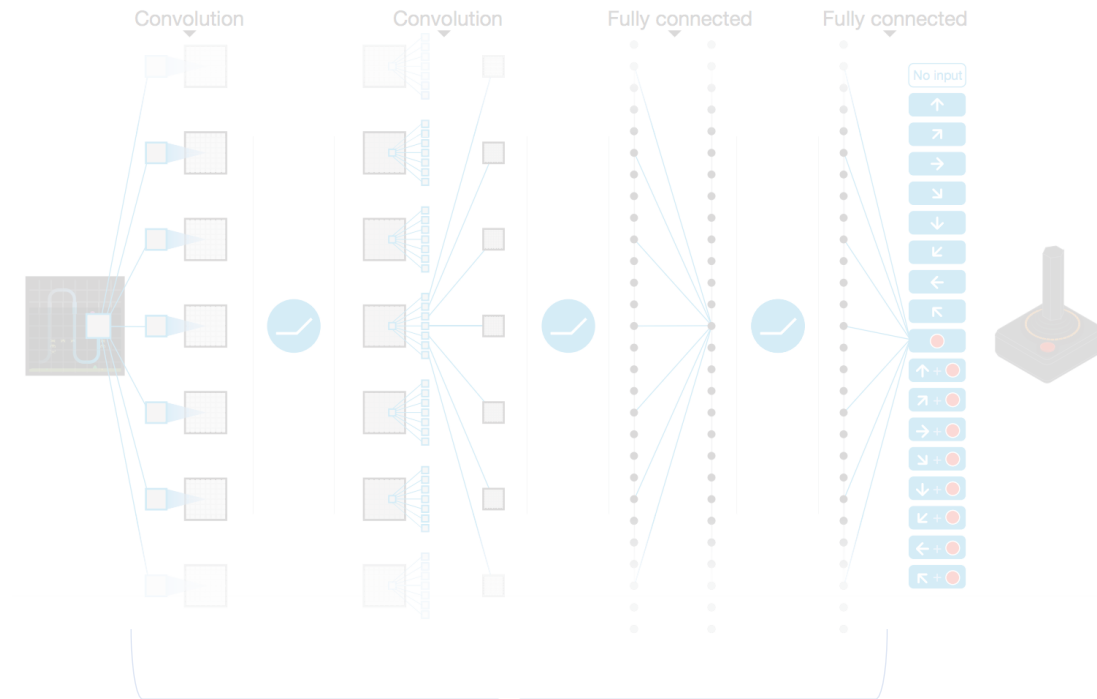


State

“fix-sized 2D  
raw pixels”

**Action**

(move left, move right)



Neural Policy

$P(action | state)$

“automatically learned  
from self-play”

# The Success of Deep Reinforcement Learning

Reward

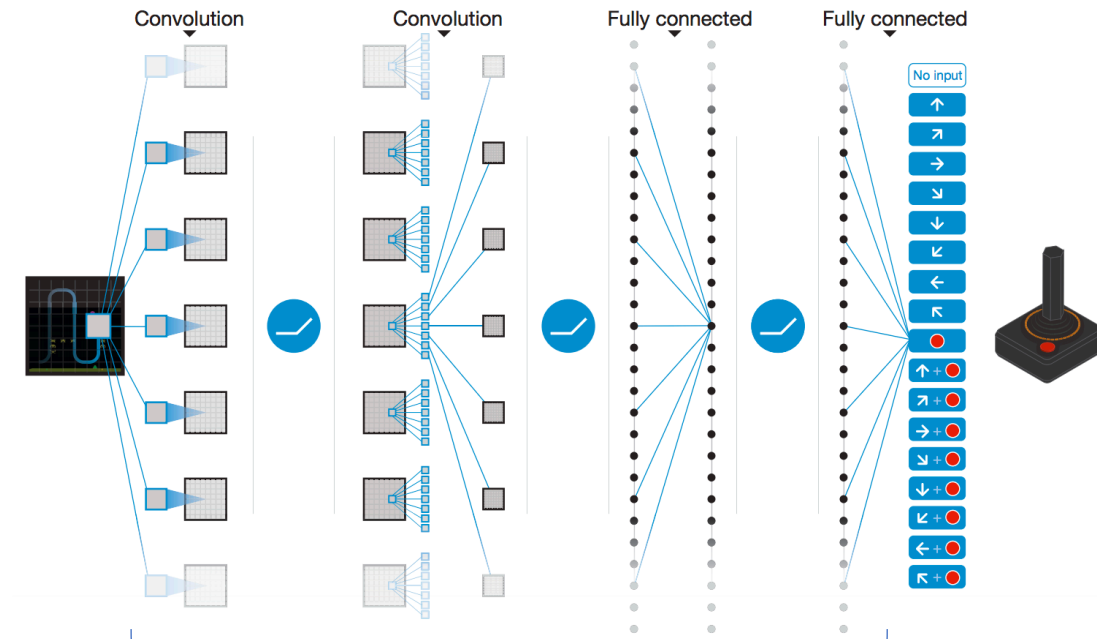


State

“fix-sized 2D  
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Action

(move left, move right)



Neural Policy

$P(action \mid state)$

“automatically learned  
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# DRL for program reasoning

Atari  
Games

raw pixels  
size is fixed

Convolutional  
Neural Network

Simple & Limited  
number of actions

Program

# DRL for program reasoning

Atari  
Games

raw pixels  
size is fixed

Convolutional  
Neural Network

Simple & Limited  
number of actions

Program

***structured*** data  
size ***varies***

***Graph Neural  
Network***

***Actions specified in a  
Context-free Grammar***

# Learning loop invariant

Program

```
 $x := -50;$   
while  $(x < 0)$  {  
   $x := x + y;$   
   $y := y + 1$  }  
assert  $(y > 0)$ 
```

Loop Invariant

$(x < 0 \vee y > 0)$

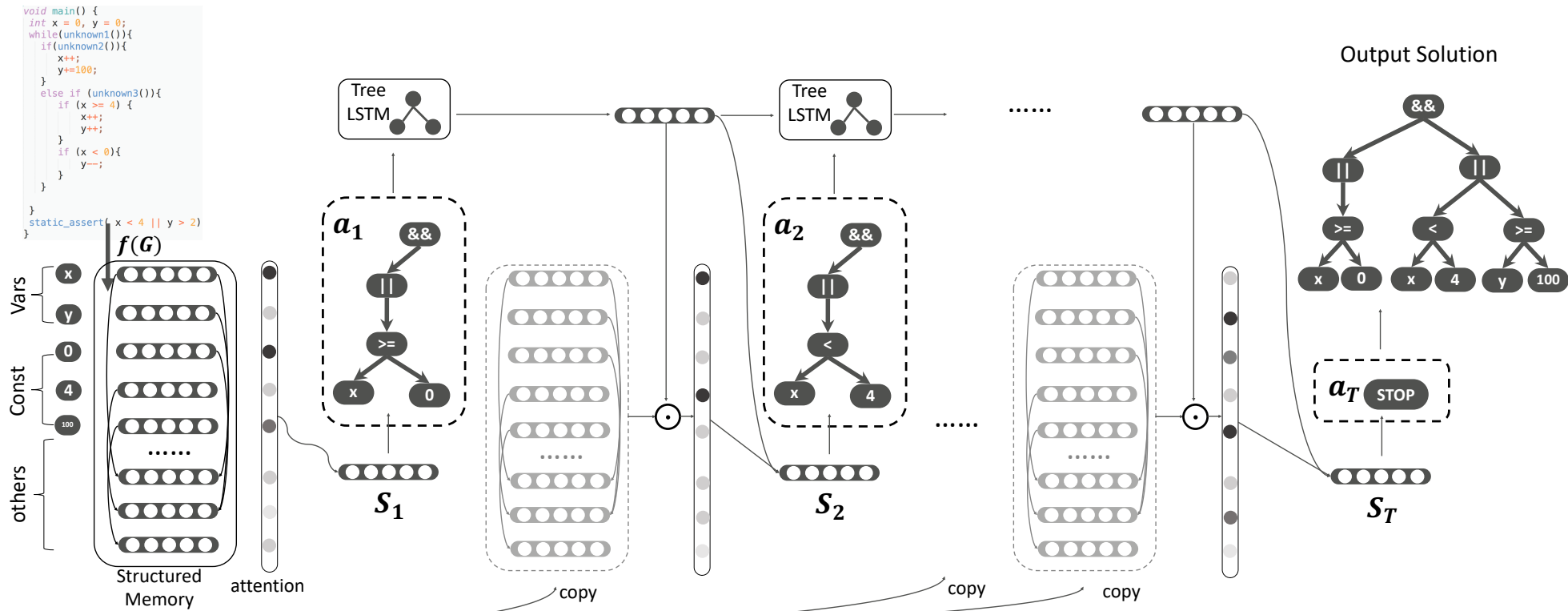


Beyond  
NP-Hard

Requirement:

$$\forall x, y: \begin{cases} \text{true} \Rightarrow I[-50/x] & (pre) \\ I \wedge x < 0 \Rightarrow I[(y+1)/y, (x+y)/x] & (inv) \\ I \wedge x \geq 0 \Rightarrow y > 0 & (post) \end{cases}$$

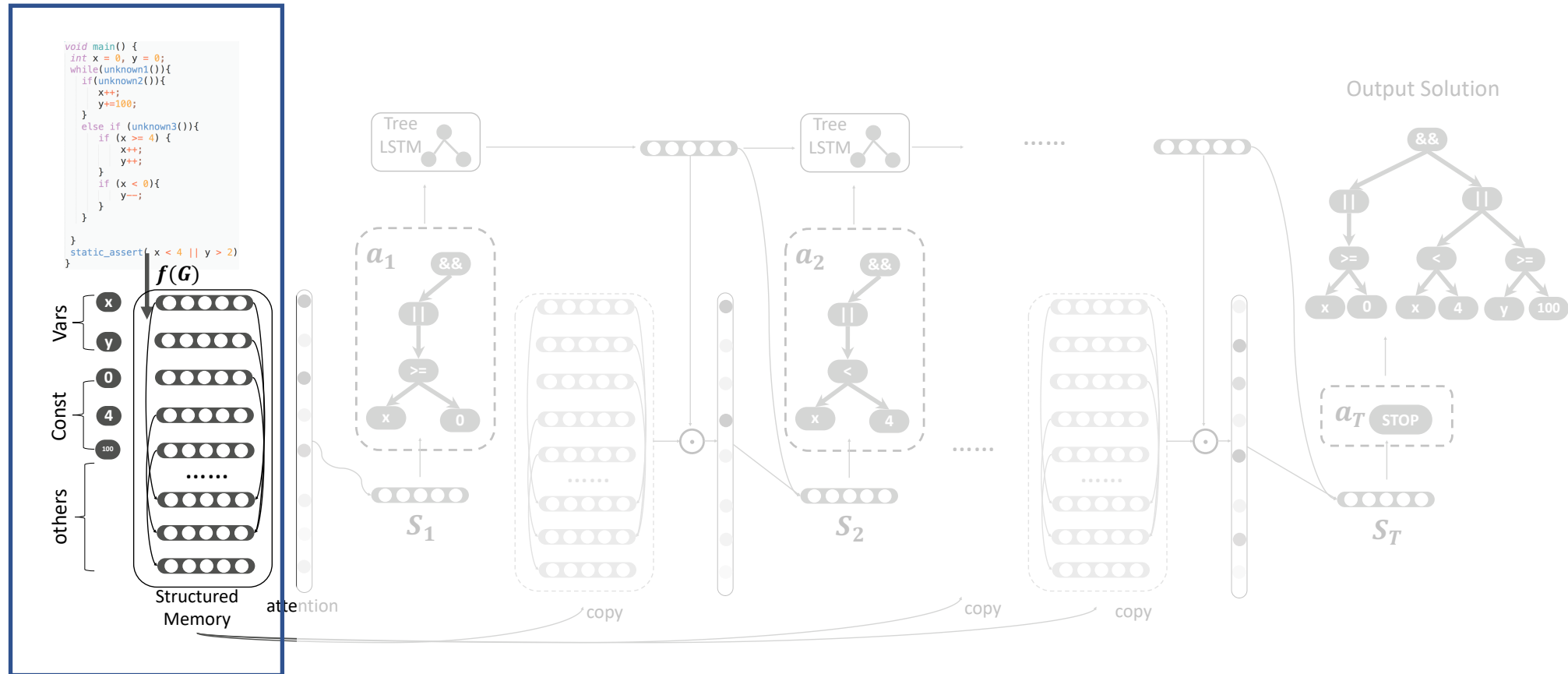
# Approach overview



# Approach overview

## Representation Learning

“turn a program into a collection of high dimensional vectors”

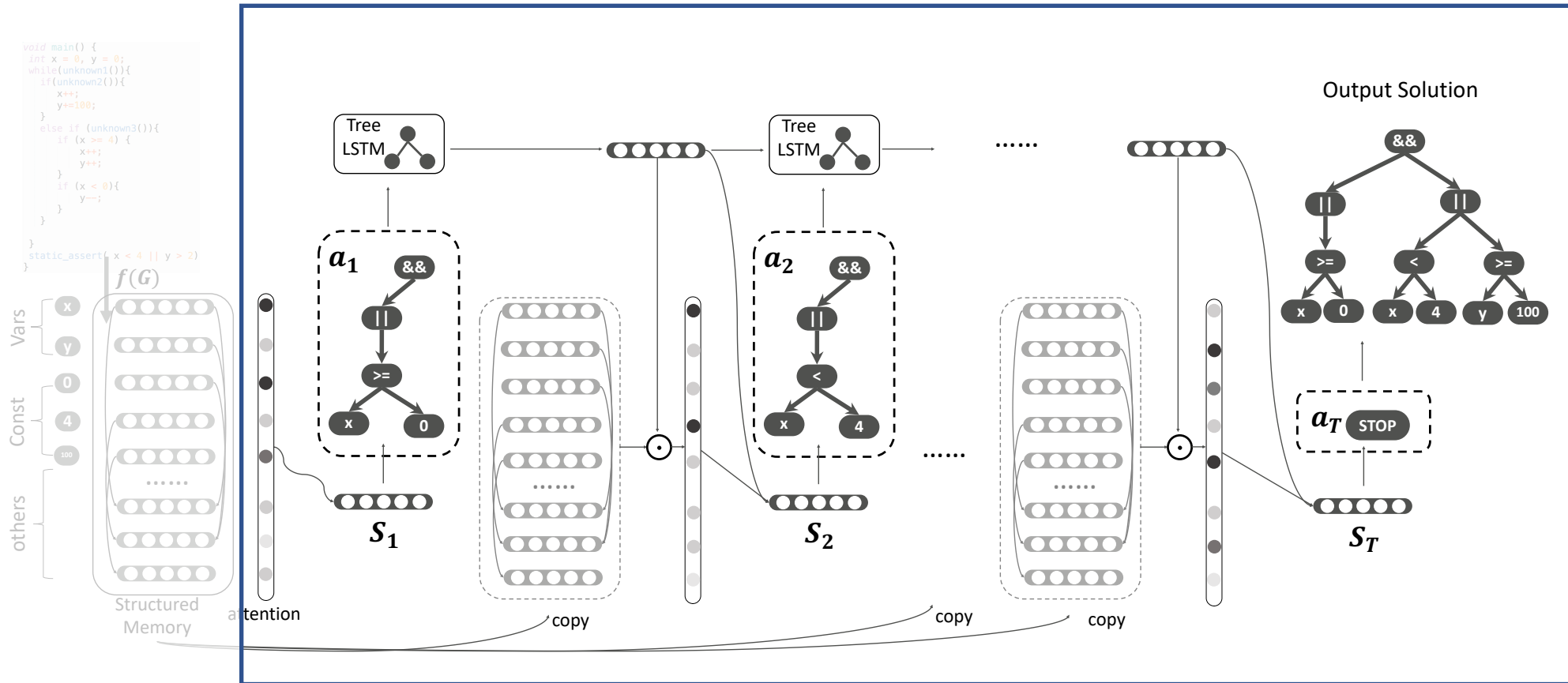




# Approach overview

## Reinforcement Learning

”reduce loop invariant generation as a multiple step decision problem”



# Representation learning for source code

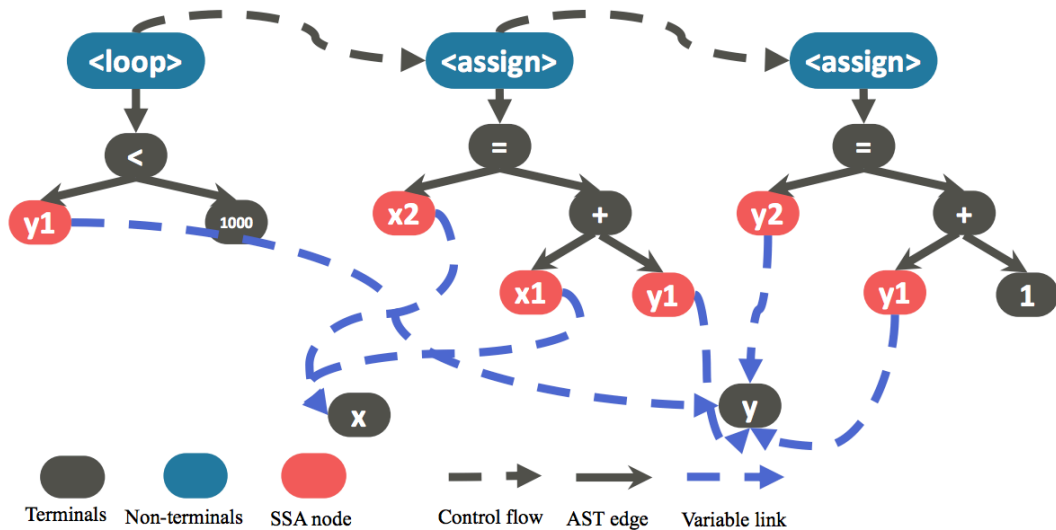
```
while (y < 1000) {  
    x = x + y  
    y = y + 1  
}
```

SSA

```
 $x_1 = \phi(x_0, x_2)$   
 $y_1 = \phi(y_0, y_2)$   
while ( $y_1$  < 1000) {  
     $x_2 = x_1 + y$   
     $y_2 = y_1 + 1$   
}
```

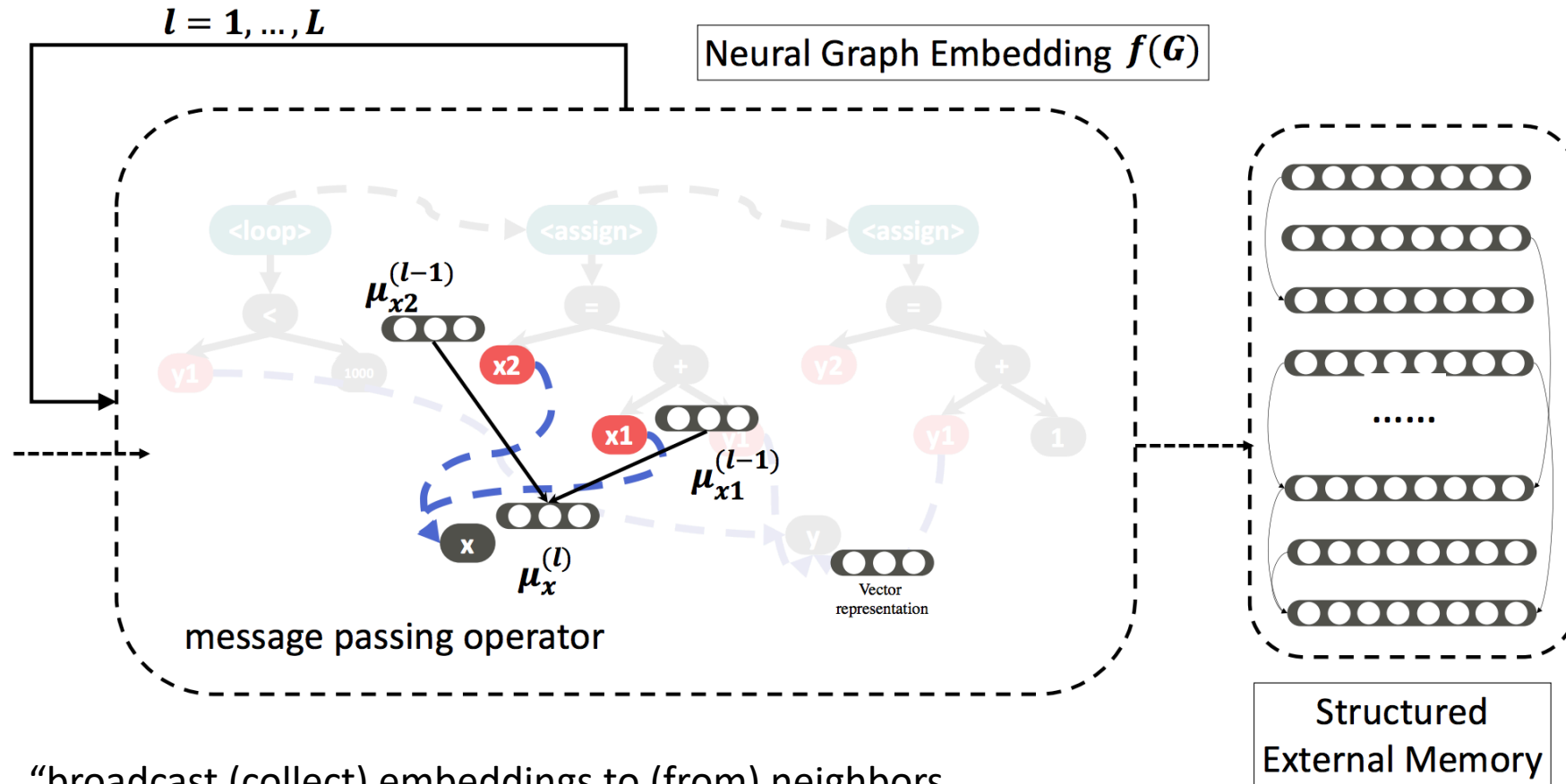
Source Code

```
while (y < 1000)  
{  
    x = (x + y);  
    y = (y + 1);  
}
```



Graph Representation  $G$

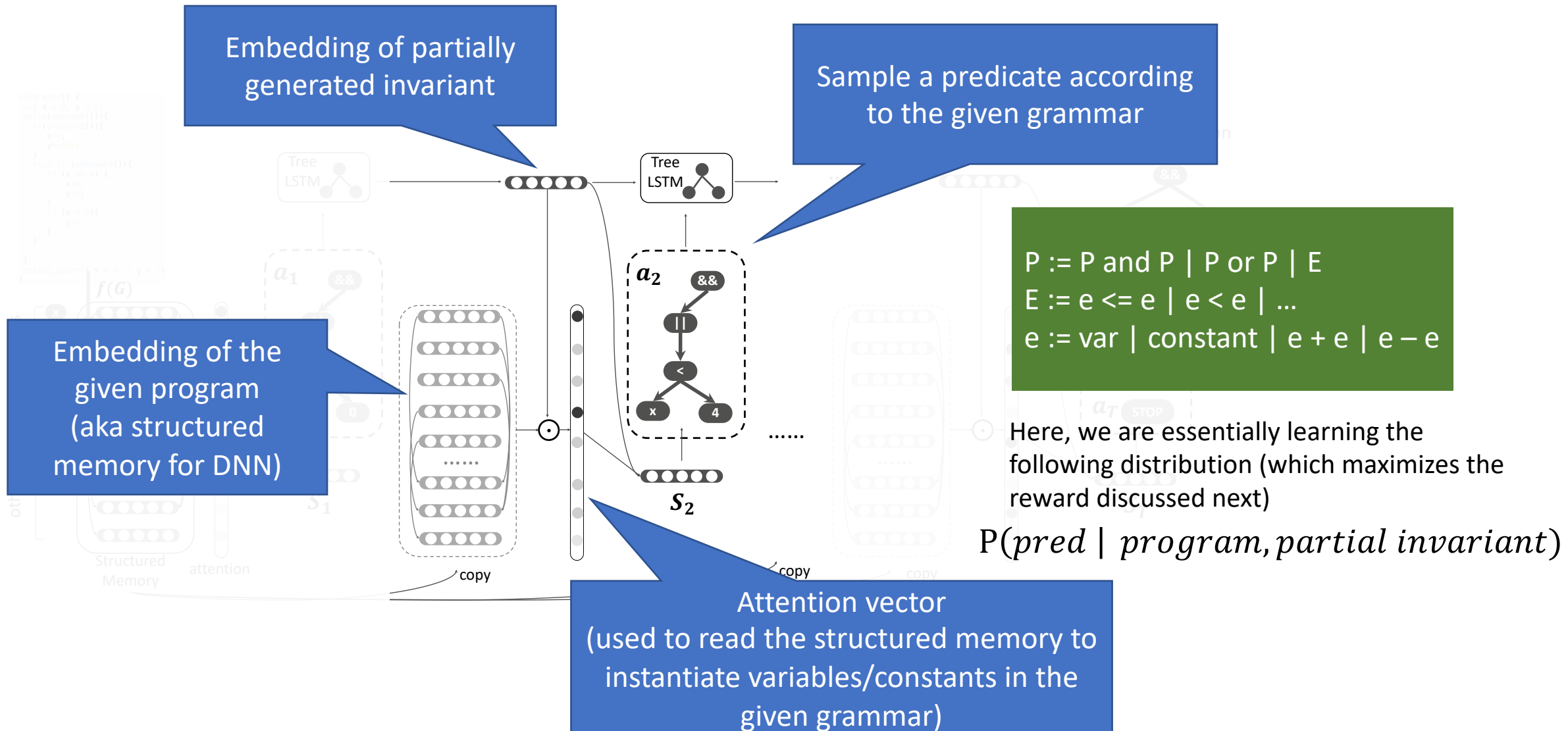
# Representation learning for source code

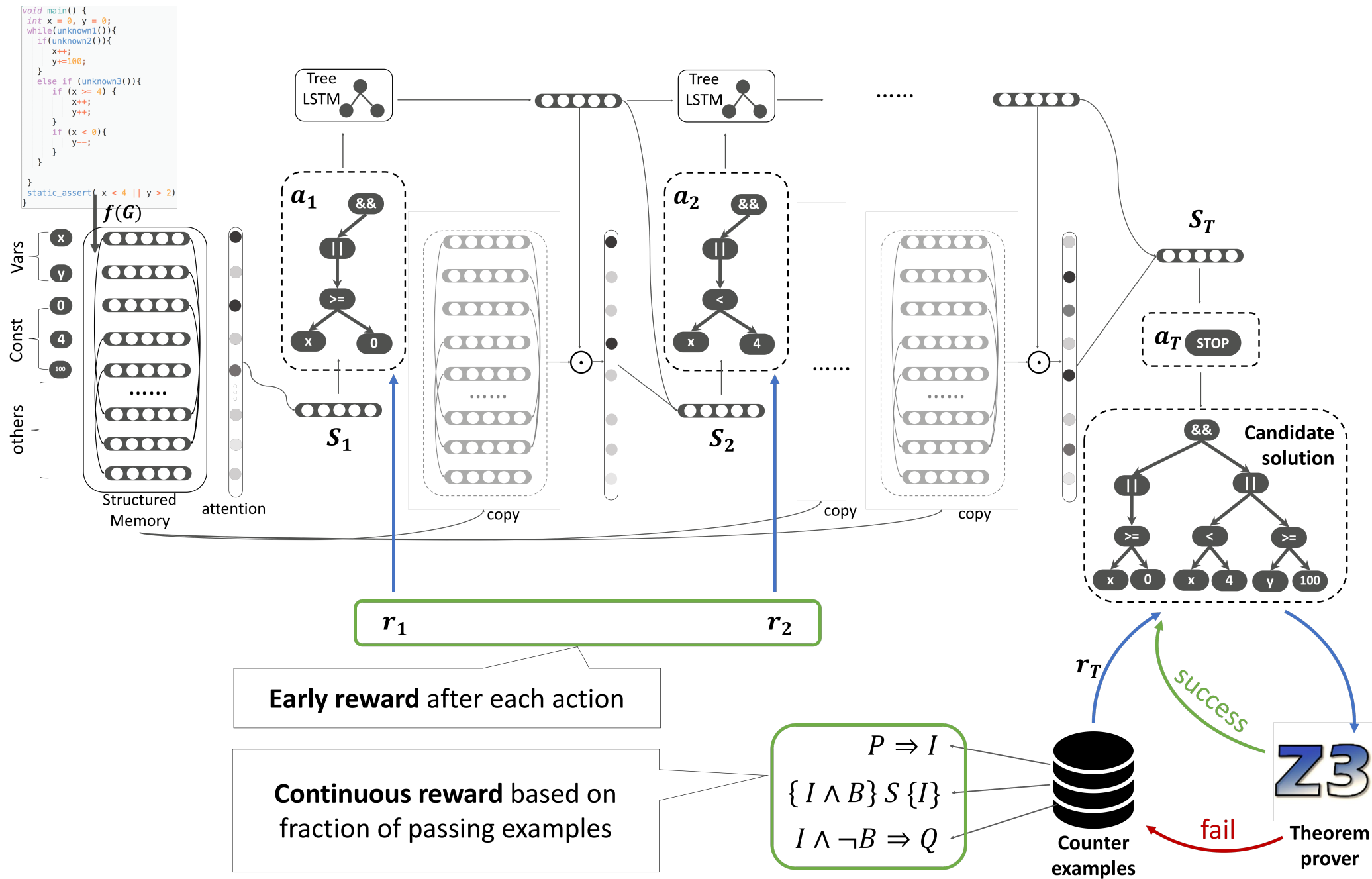


“broadcast (collect) embeddings to (from) neighbors and perform non-linear transformation; repeat for L iterations”

“turn a piece of code into  
something readable by DNNs”

# Reinforcement learning for invariant generation





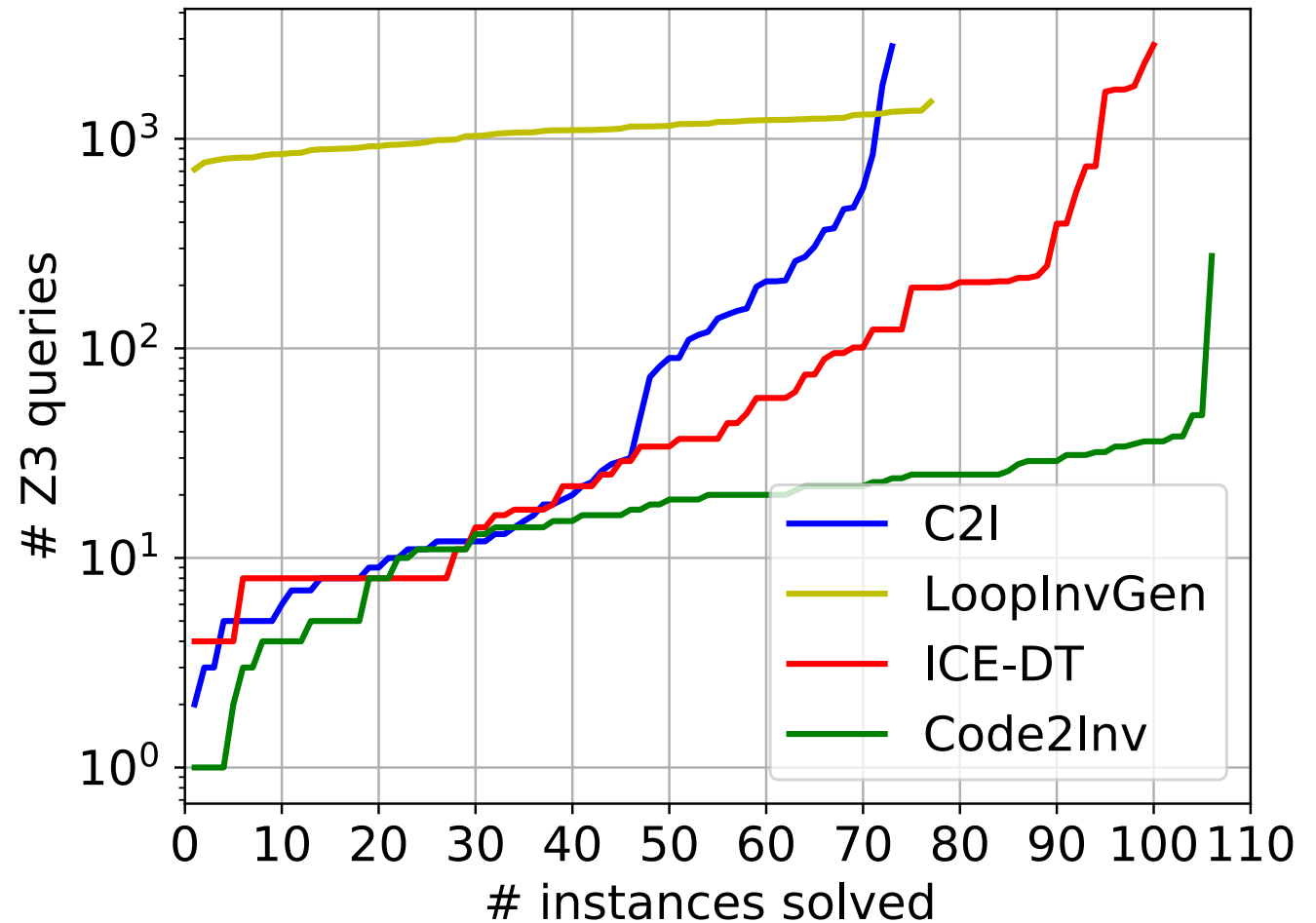
# Experimental evaluation

- We collect 133 benchmark programs



OOPSLA 2013, Dillig et al

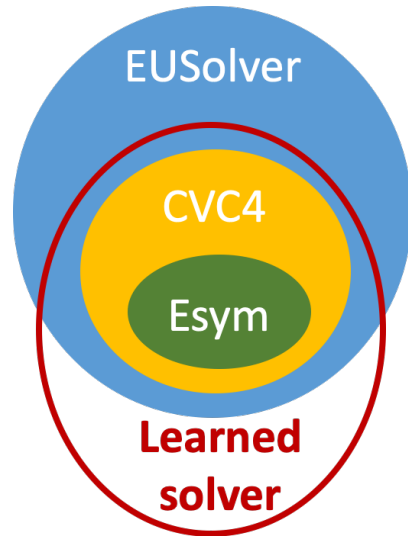
POPL 2016, Garag et al



Code and data: <https://github.com/petablox/code2inv>

# Extension to program synthesis

- View a synthesis specification as a “program”
- Invariant generation is essentially program generation
- Initial results on 214 SyGuS tasks look promising



Thank you!



Q: how is the performance in term of running time?

- The running time for each solved instance takes up to 6 hours
  - All solvers have 6-hour limit (though other solvers tend to either solve an instance within 30 minutes or time out)
- Everything is done with a single thread CPU
- There is ***no training***, that is, each instance is solved from scratch (with randomly initialized weights)
  - View DRL as a smart search algorithm that evolves on the fly

Q: how about the generation (suppose you do perform some pre-training)?

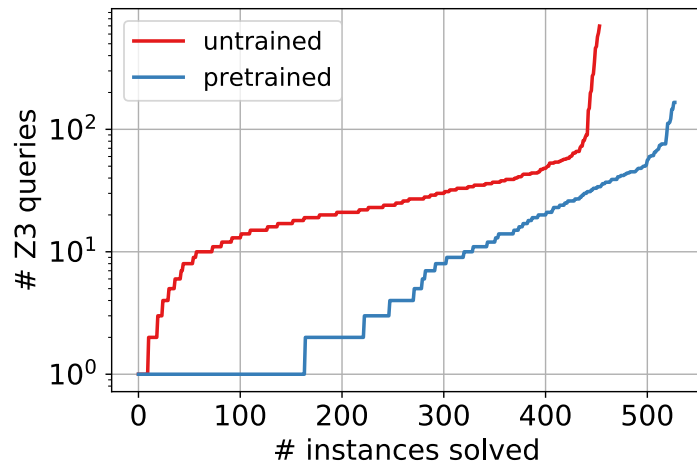
- We do not observe much generation across the collected benchmark, as they seem quite different from one to another.
  - Thus, pre-training does not help much
- We do have a generation study (see next two slides)

# Generation study (injecting random statements)

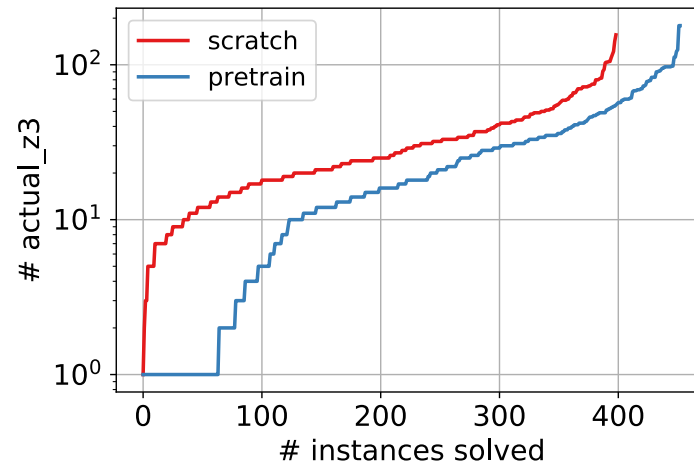
```
void main (int n) {  
    int x = 0  
        ← int w = 0  
    int m = 0  
        ← int z = 0  
    while (x < n) {  
        ← z = z + 1  
        if (unknown()) {  
            m = x  
            ← z = m + 1  
        }  
        x = x + 1  
        ← w = m + x  
    }  
    if (n > 0) {  
        assert (m < n)  
    }  
}
```

```
void main (int n) {  
    int x = 0  
    int w = 0  
    int m = 0  
    int z = 0  
    while (x < n) {  
        z = z + 1  
        if (unknown()) {  
            m = x  
            z = m + 1  
        }  
        x = x + 1  
        w = m + x  
    }  
    if (n > 0) {  
        assert (m < n)  
    }  
}
```

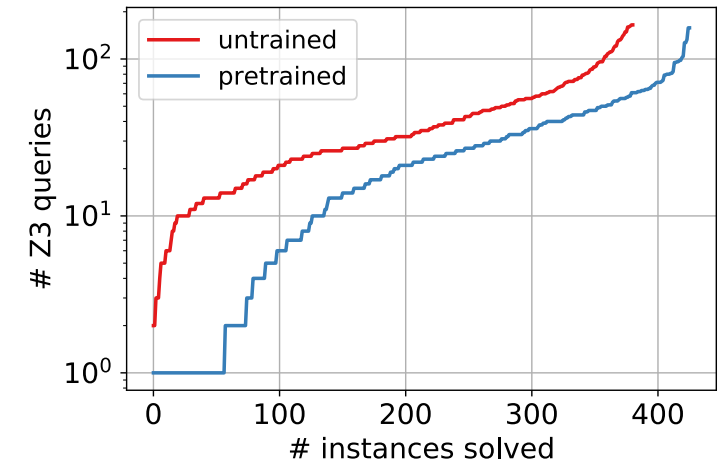
# Generation study (evaluation)



1 confounding variable



3 confounding variables



5 confounding variables