

Computer-Aided Reasoning for Software

# CSLE507

## **Solver-Aided Programming I**

**Emina Torlak**

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# Topics

**What is this course about?**

**Course logistics**

**Getting started with solver-aided programming!**

**about**

**Tools for building better software, more easily**

**more reliable,  
efficient, secure**

**Tools for building better software, more easily**

Tools for building **better software**, more easily

**automated verification and  
synthesis based on  
satisfiability solvers**

# Tools for building **better software**, more easily

**automated verification and  
synthesis based on  
satisfiability solvers**

**“solver-aided tools”**

**By the end of this course, you'll be able to  
build solver-aided tools for any domain!**

**biology**

**systems**

**security**

**education**

**By the end of this course, you'll be able to  
build solver-aided tools for any domain!**

**hardware**

**networking**

**databases**

**low-power computing**

**high-performance computing**

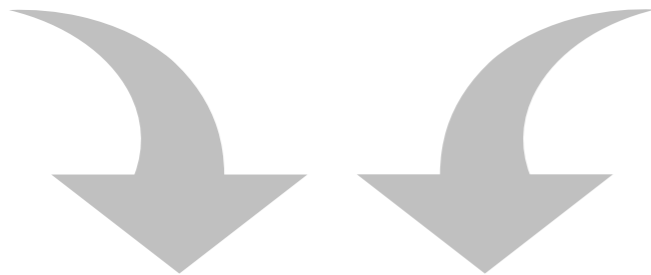


# Logistics

**Topics, structure, people**

# Course overview

**program question**



**tool**

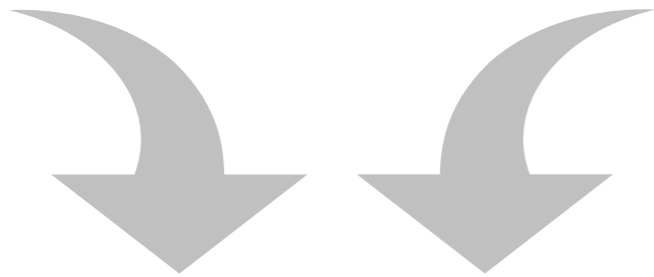
**logic**



**automated  
reasoning  
engine**

# Course overview

**program**   **question**



**verifier,  
synthesizer**

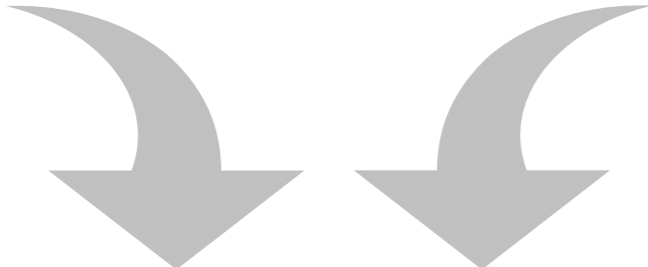
**logic**



**SAT, SMT,  
model finders**

# Course overview

program question

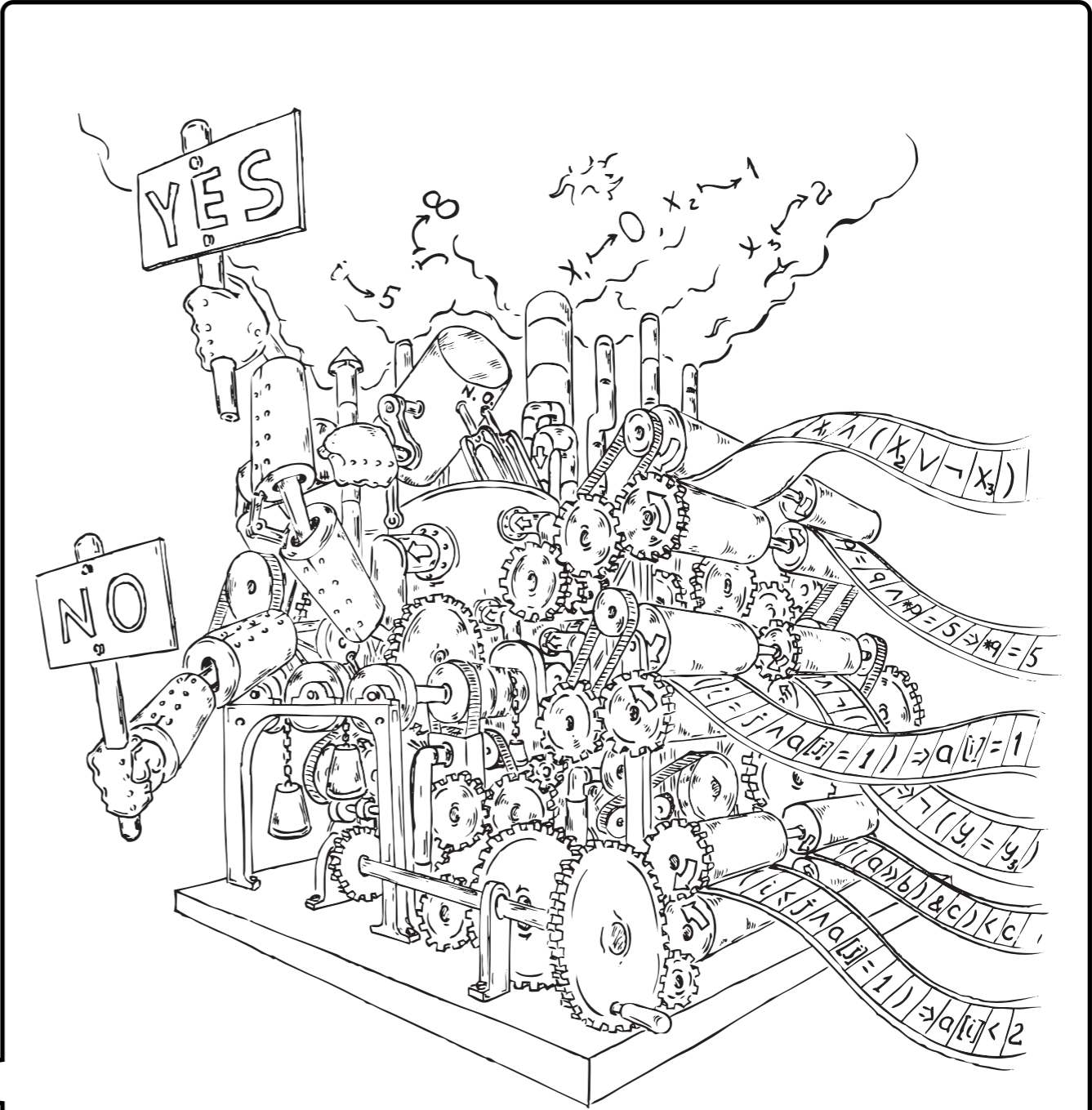


**verifier,  
synthesizer**

logic



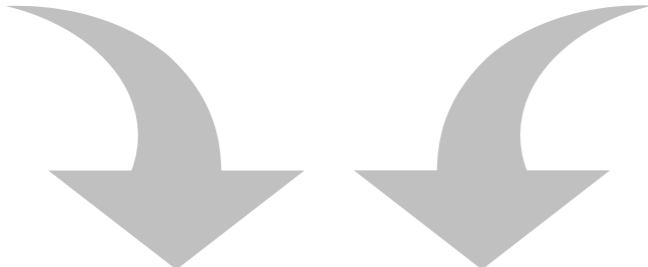
**SAT, SMT,  
model finders**



Drawing from "Decision Procedures" by Kroening & Strichman

# Course overview

program question

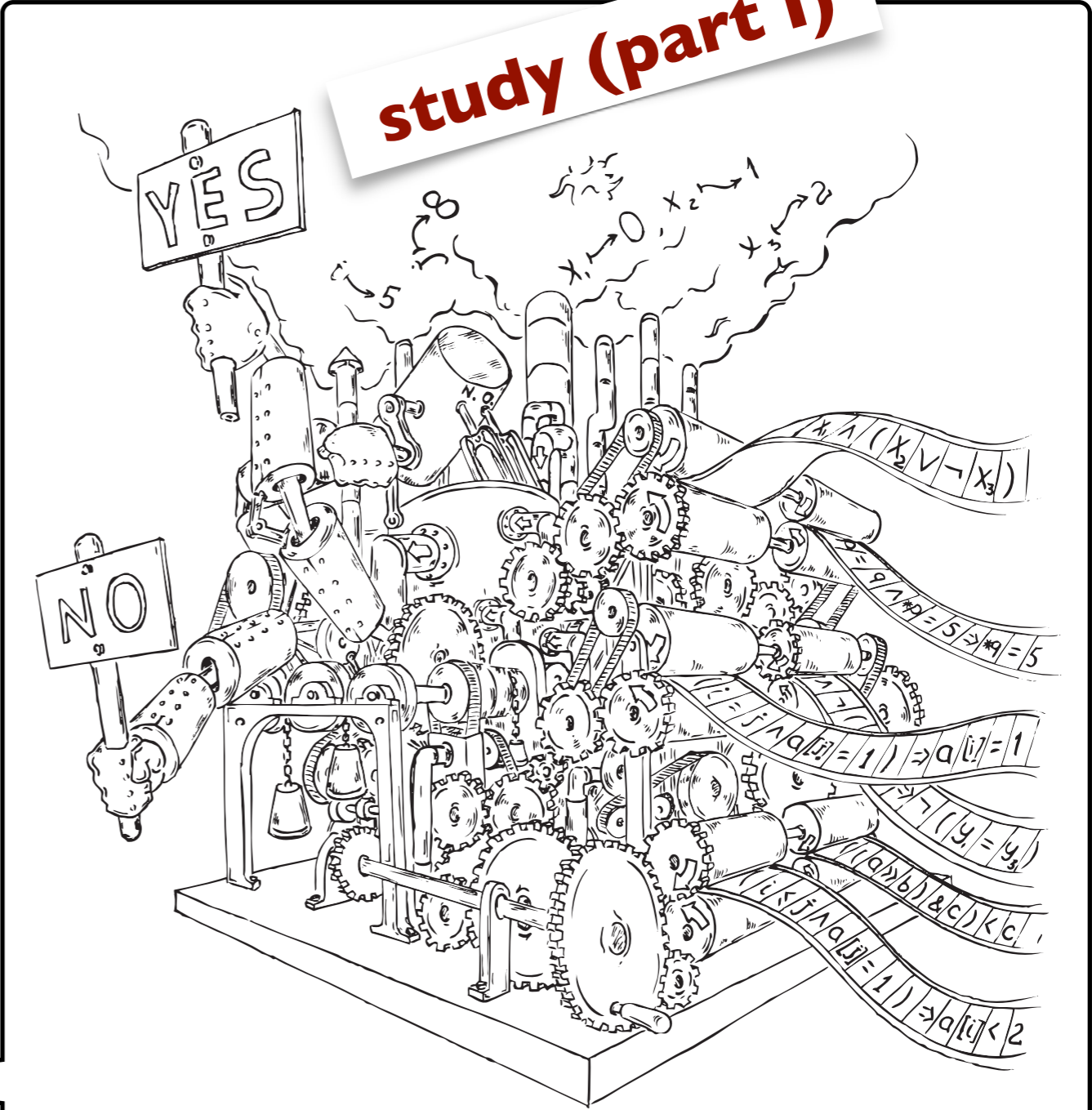


**verifier,  
synthesizer**

logic



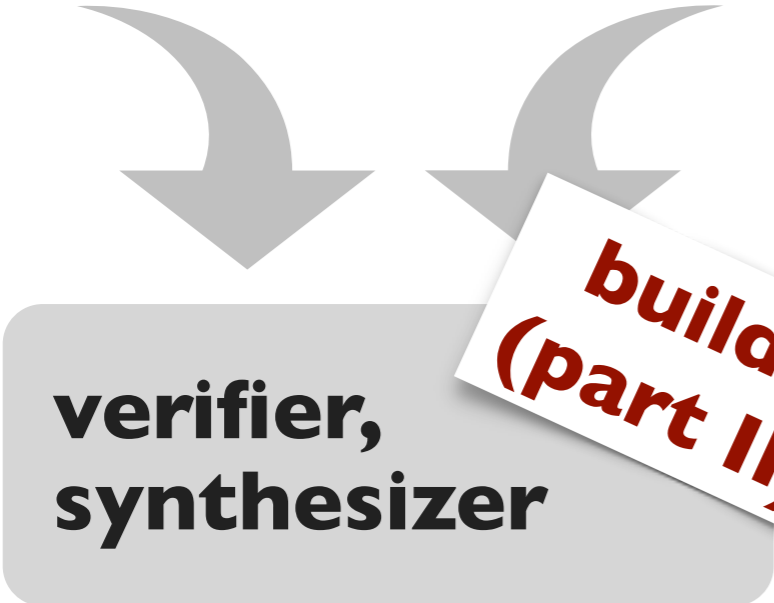
**SAT, SMT,  
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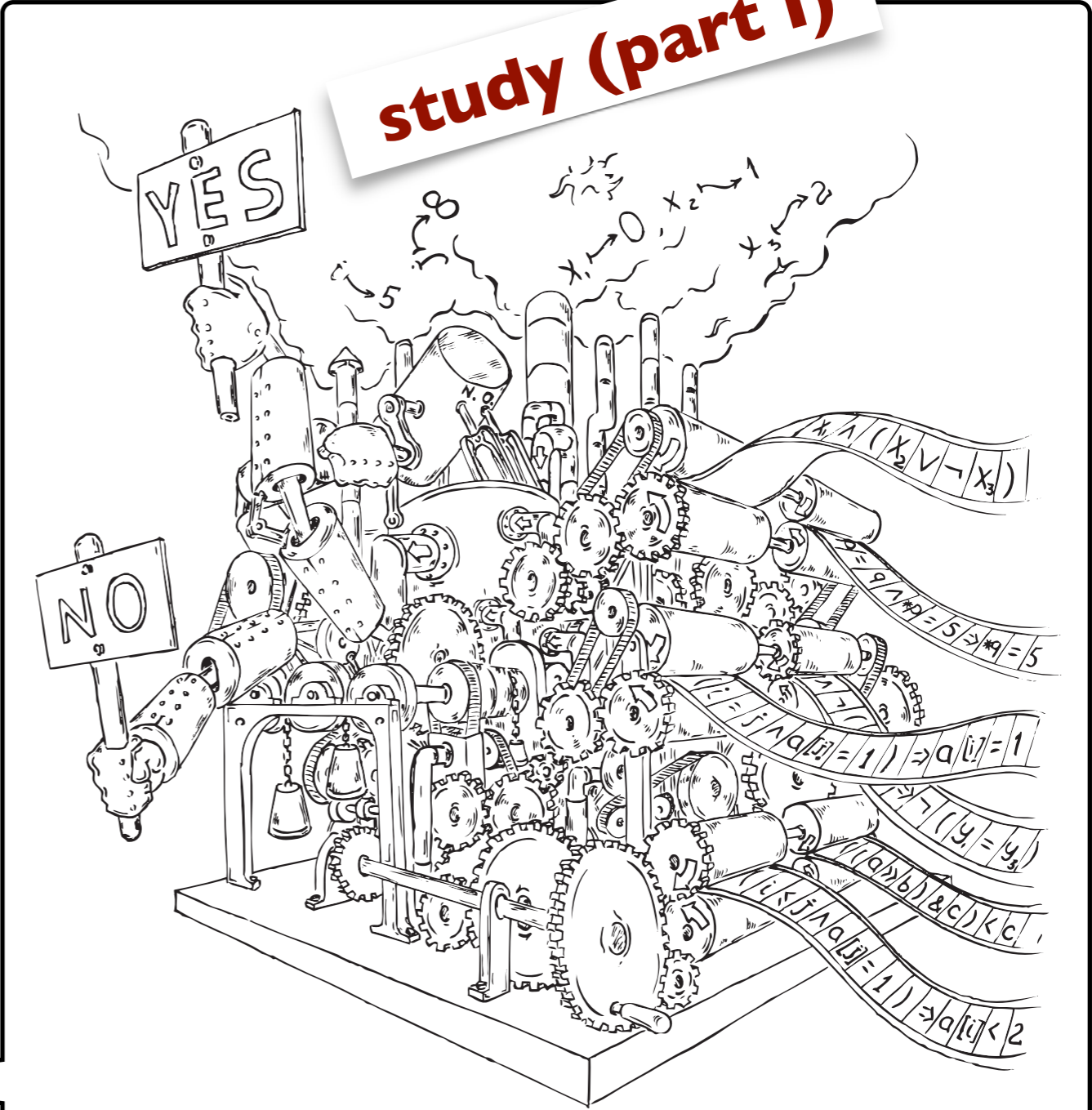
Drawing from "Decision Procedures" by Kroening & Strichman

# Course overview

program question



logic



Drawing from "Decision Procedures" by Kroening & Strichman

# Grading

## 3 individual homework assignments (75%)

- conceptual problems & proofs (TeX)
- implementations (Racket, Dafny, Alloy)
- completed on your own (may discuss HWs with course staff only)

**study (part I)**

## Course project (25%)

- build a computer-aided reasoning tool for a domain of your choice
- teams of 2-3 people
- see the course web page for timeline, deliverables and other details

**build!  
(part II)**

# Reading and references

## Recommended readings posted on the course web page

- Complete each reading before the lecture for which it is assigned
- If multiple papers are listed, only the first is required reading

## Recommended text books

- Bradley & Manna, [The Calculus of Computation](#)
- Kroening & Strichman, [Decision Procedures](#)



# Advice for doing well in 507

## **Come to class (prepared)**

- Lecture slides are enough to teach from, but not enough to learn from

## **Participate**

- Ask and answer questions

## **Meet deadlines**

- Turn homework in on time
- Start homework and project sooner than you think you need to
- Follow instructions for submitting code (we have to be able to run it)
- No proof should be longer than a page (most are ~1 paragraph)

# People



**Emina Torlak**  
**PLSE**  
CSE 596



**Sorawee Porncharoenwase**  
**PLSE**  
CSE2 253  
OH W 1-2pm

# People

**instructor**



**Emina Torlak**  
**PLSE**  
CSE 596  
By appointment

**TA**



**Sorawee Porncharoenwase**  
**PLSE**  
CSE2 253  
OH W 1-2pm

**students!**

**Your name**  
**Research area**



**Solver-aided programming in two parts:  
(1) getting started and (2) going pro**

A programming model that integrates solvers into the language, providing constructs for program verification, synthesis, and more.



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**Solver-aided programming in two parts:  
(1) getting started and (2) going pro**

How to use a solver-aided language: the workflow, constructs, and gotchas.

A programming model that integrates solvers into the language, providing constructs for program verification, synthesis, and more.



**Solver-aided programming in two parts:  
(1) getting started and (2) going pro**

How to use a solver-aided language: the workflow, constructs, and gotchas.

How to build your own solver-aided tool via direct symbolic evaluation or language embedding.

A programming model that integrates solvers into the language, providing constructs for program verification, synthesis, and more.

## **Solver-aided programming in two parts: (1) getting started and (2) going pro**

How to use a solver-aided language: the workflow, constructs, and gotchas.

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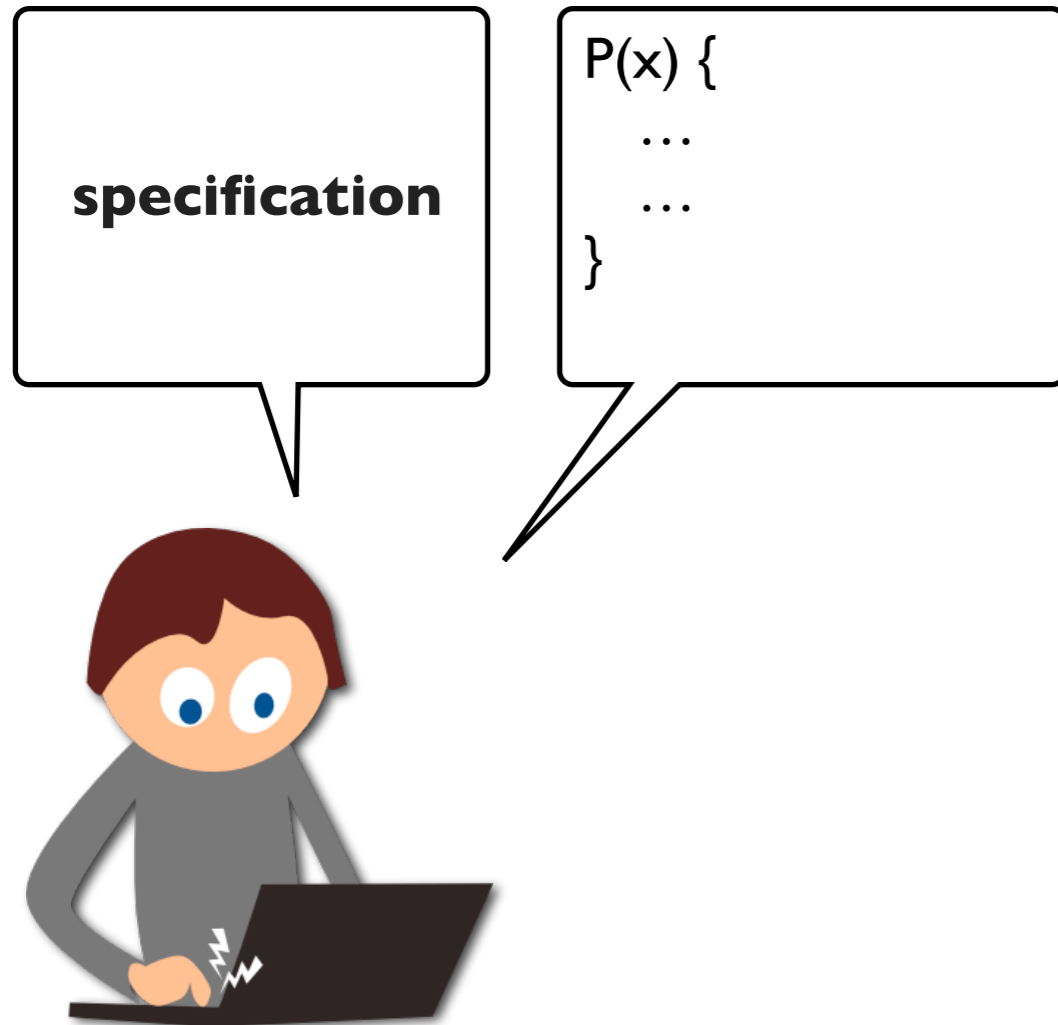
**ROSETTE**

## Solver-aided programming in two parts: (1) **getting started** and (2) going pro

How to use a solver-aided language: the **workflow**, constructs and gotchas.

How to build your own solver-aided tool via direct symbolic evaluation or language embedding.

# Classic programming: from spec to code



# Classic programming: test behaviors

**test some behaviors against the specification**

```
P(x) {  
  ...  
  ...  
}  
assert safe(2, P(2))
```



# Solver-aided programming: *query* behaviors

**query** all behaviors against the specification

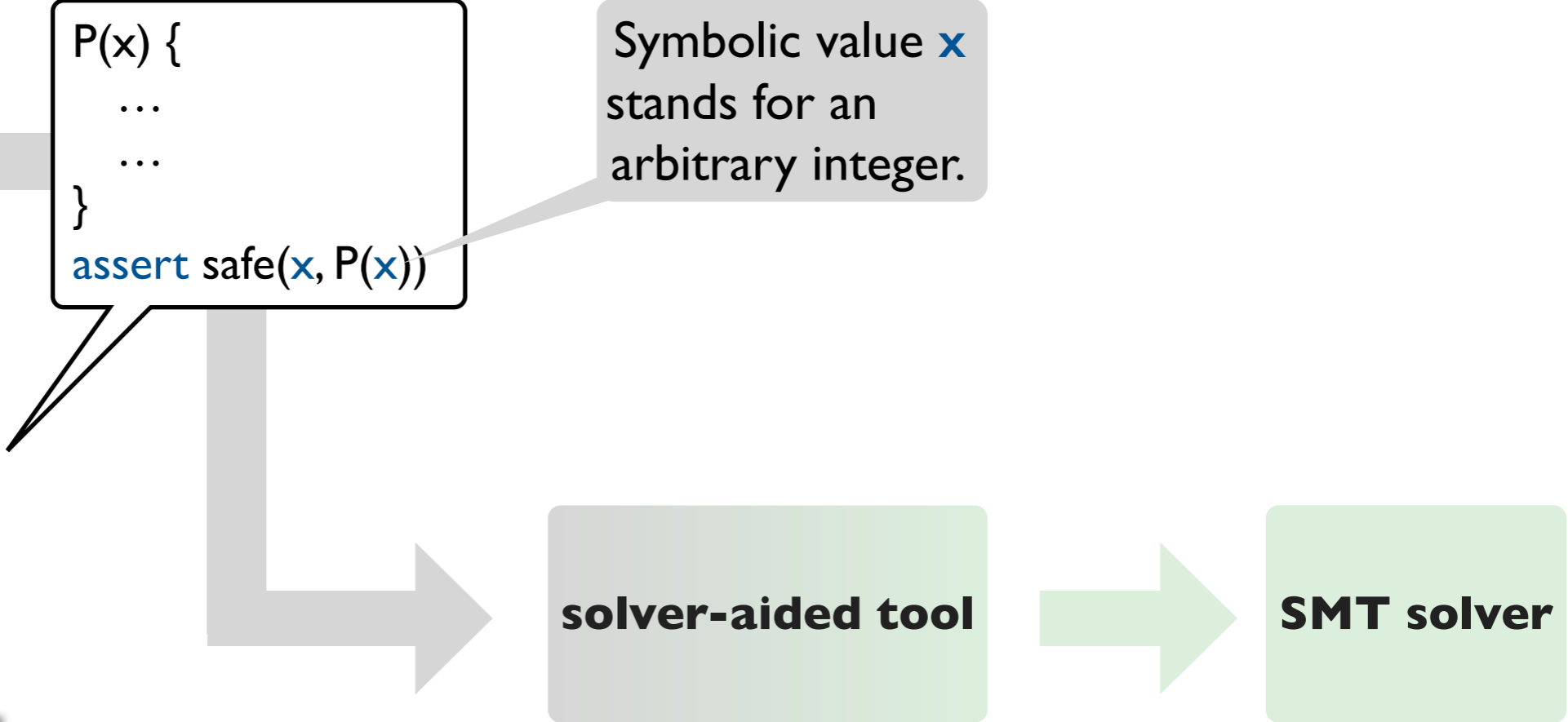
```
P(x) {  
  ...  
  ...  
}  
assert safe(x, P(x))
```

Symbolic value **x** stands for an arbitrary integer.

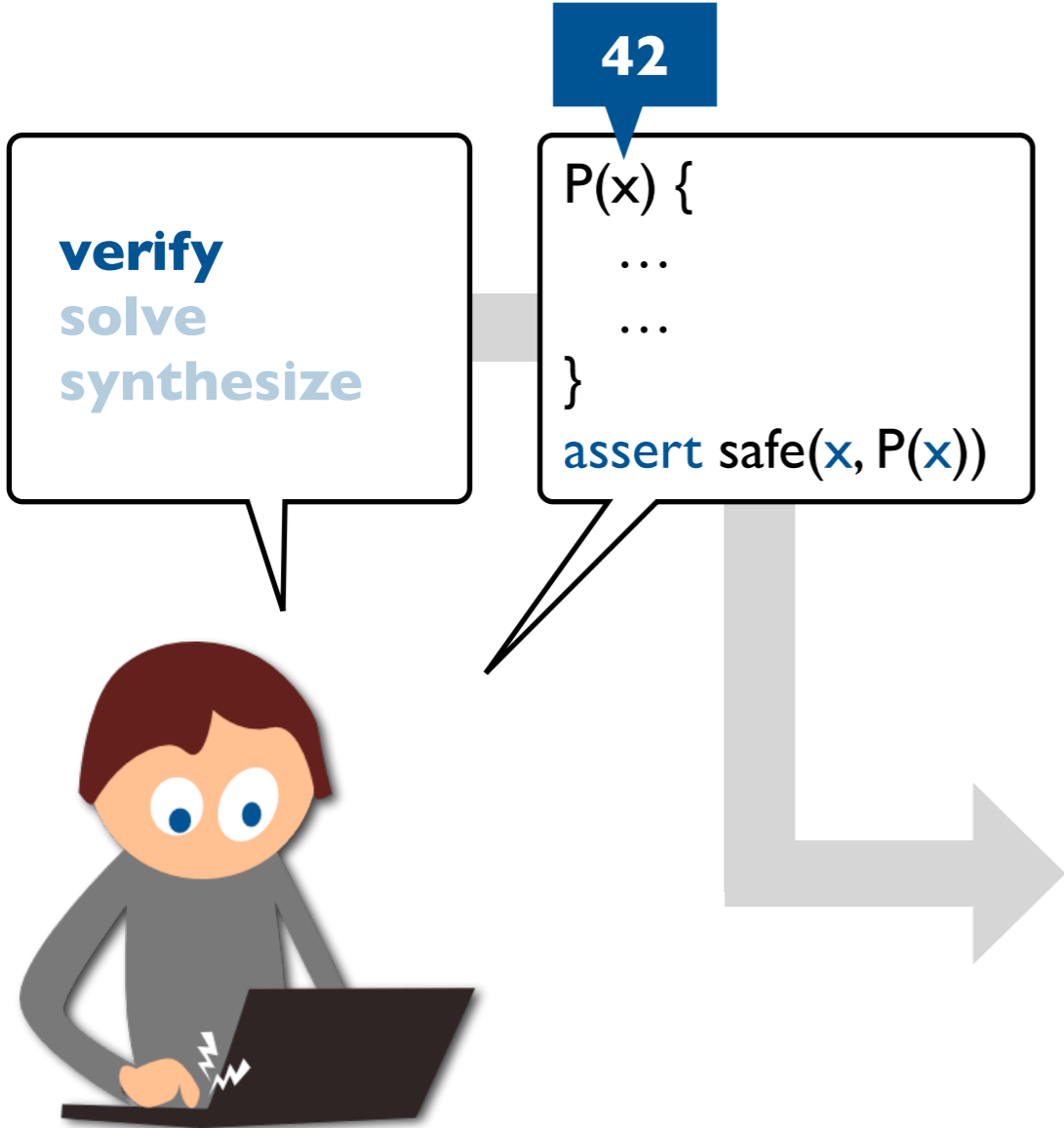


**solver-aided tool**

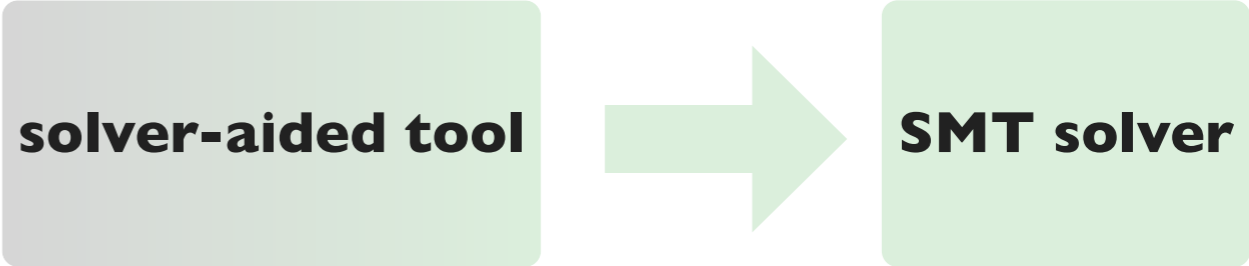
**SMT solver**



# Solver-aided programming: verify

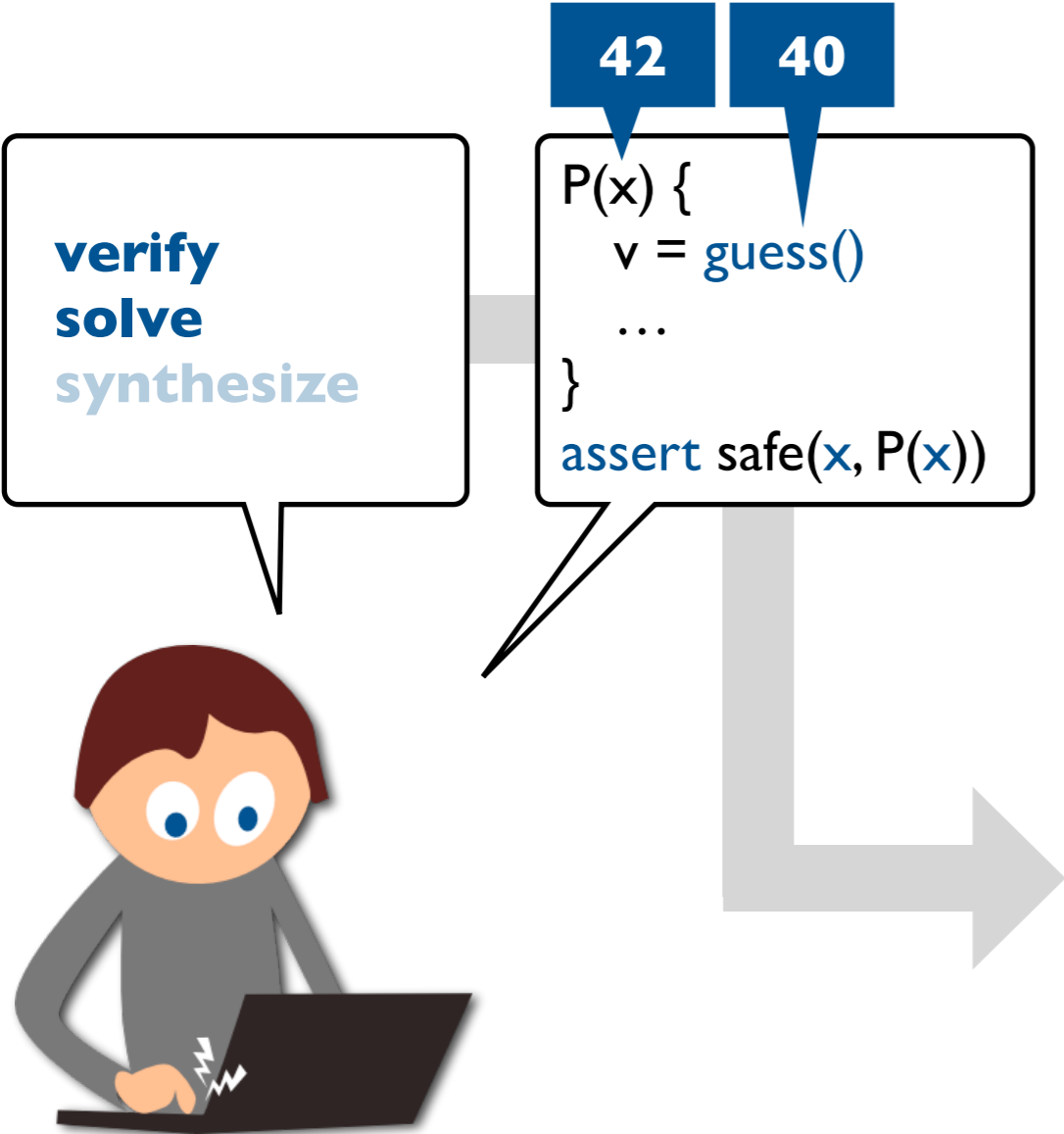


Find an input on which the program fails.

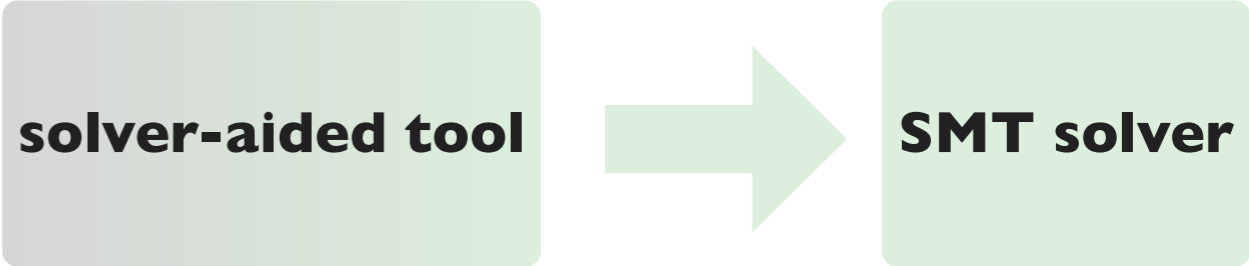


$\exists x . \neg \text{safe}(x, P(x))$

# Solver-aided programming: solve

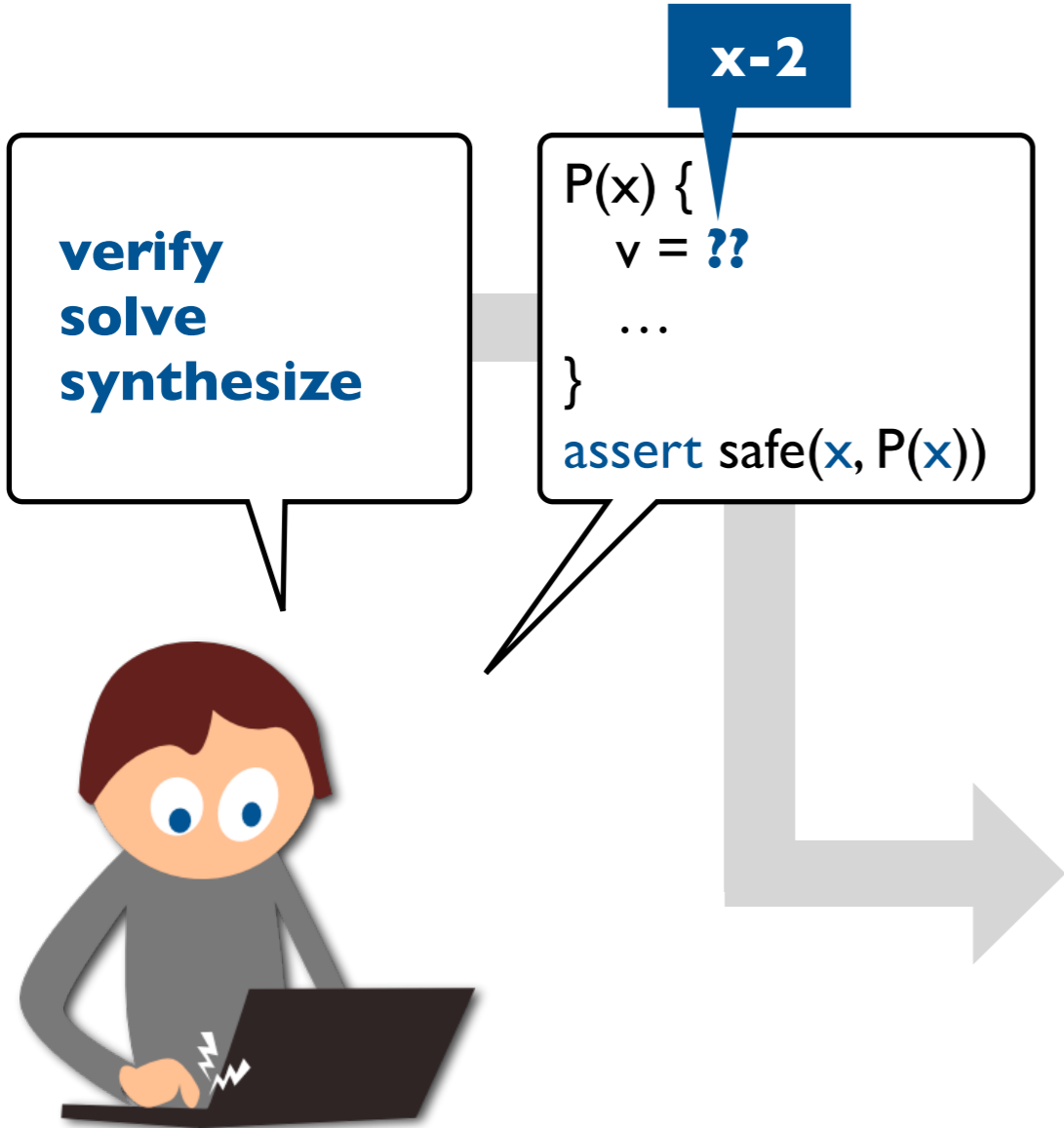


Find an input on which the program fails.  
Find values that repair the failing run.



$\exists x . \neg \text{safe}(x, P(x))$   
 $x = 42 \wedge \text{safe}(x, P(x))$

# Solver-aided programming: synthesize

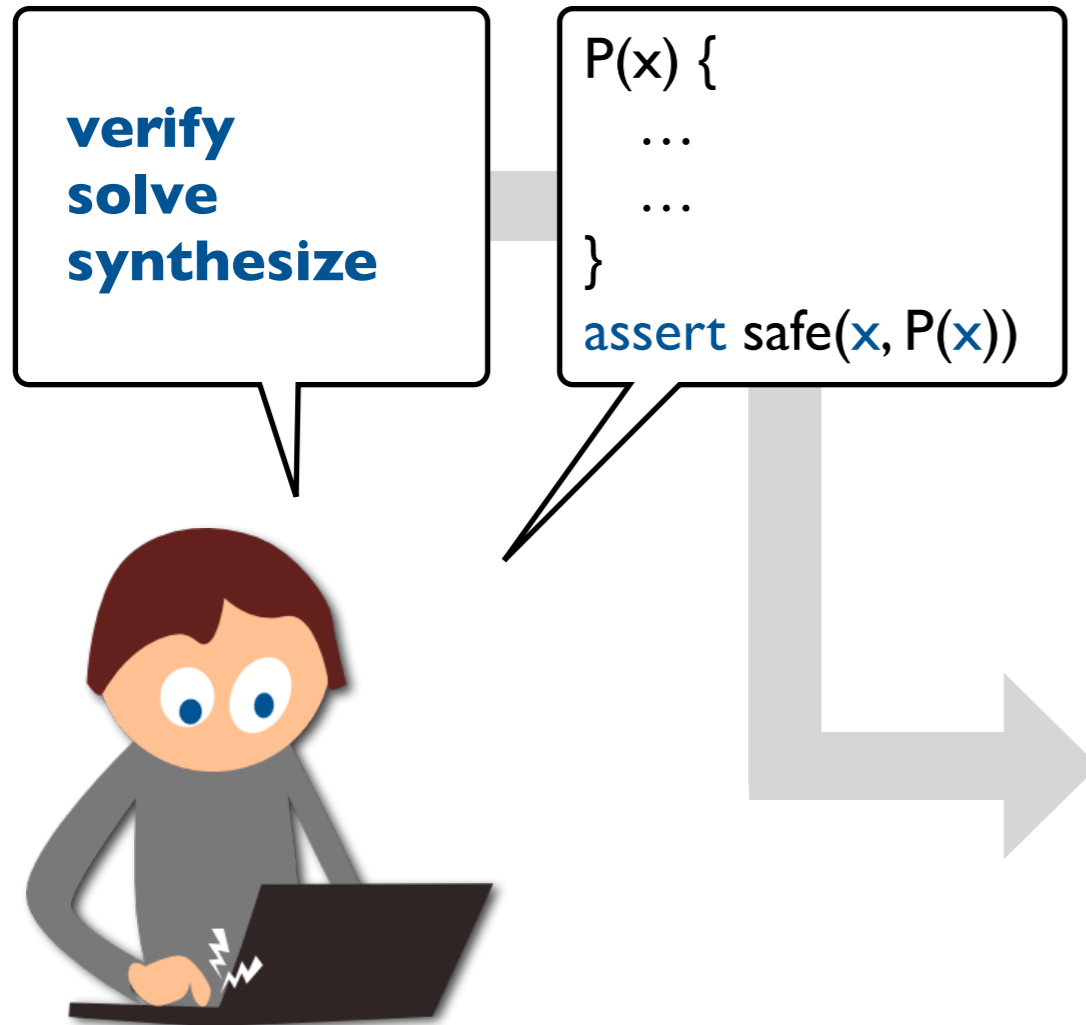


Find an input on which the program fails.  
Find values that repair the failing run.  
Find code that repairs the program.



$\exists x . \neg \mathbf{safe}(x, \mathbf{P}(x))$   
 $x = 42 \wedge \mathbf{safe}(x, \mathbf{P}(x))$   
 $\exists e . \forall x . \mathbf{safe}(x, \mathbf{P}_e(x))$

# Solver-aided programming: workflow



Use **assertions**, **assumptions**, and **symbolic values** to express the specification.

Ask **queries** about program behavior (on symbolic inputs) with respect to the specification.



$\exists x . \neg \mathbf{safe}(x, \mathbf{P}(x))$

$x = 42 \wedge \mathbf{safe}(x, \mathbf{P}(x))$

$\exists e . \forall x . \mathbf{safe}(x, \mathbf{P}_e(x))$



A programming model that integrates solvers into the language, providing constructs for program verification, synthesis, and more.

**ROSETTE**

**symbolic values**  
**assertions**  
**assumptions**  
**queries**

**Solver-aided programming in two parts:**  
**(1) getting started** and **(2) going pro**

How to use a solver-aided language: the workflow, **constructs, and gotchas.**

How to build your own solver-aided tool via direct symbolic evaluation or language embedding.

# Rosette extends Racket with solver-aided constructs



=



+

```
(define-symbolic id type)  
(define-symbolic* id type)
```

**symbolic  
values**

```
(assert expr)
```

**assertions**

```
(assume expr)
```

**assumptions**

```
(verify expr)
```

**queries**

```
(solve expr)
```

```
(synthesize
```

```
  #:forall expr
```

```
  #:guarantee expr)
```

# Rosette extends **Racket** with solver-aided constructs

“A programming language  
for creating new  
programming languages”



=



+

A modern descendent of  
Scheme and Lisp with  
powerful macro-based meta  
programming.

```
(define-symbolic id type)  
(define-symbolic* id type)
```

**symbolic  
values**

```
(assert expr)
```

**assertions**

```
(assume expr)
```

**assumptions**

```
(verify expr)
```

**queries**

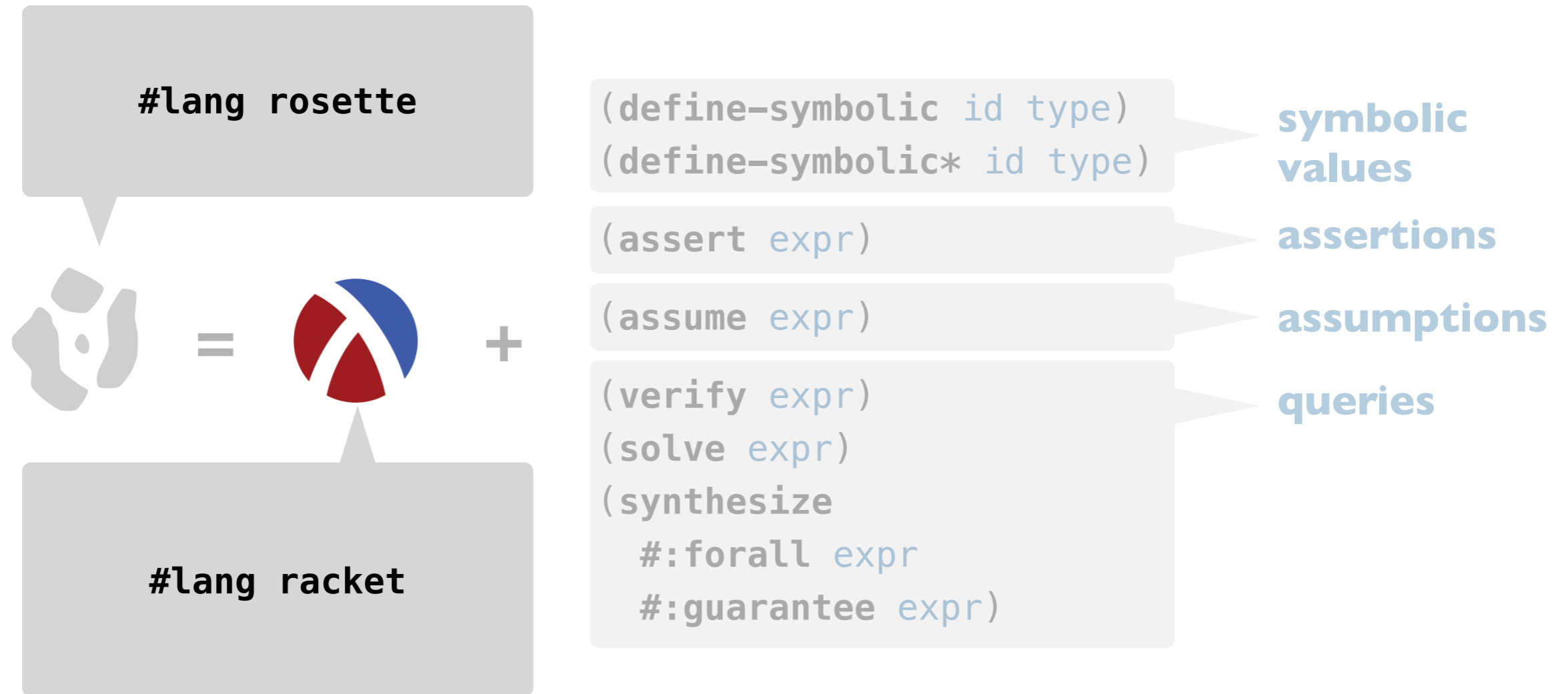
```
(solve expr)
```

```
(synthesize
```

```
  #:forall expr
```

```
  #:guarantee expr)
```

# Rosette extends **Racket** with solver-aided constructs



# Rosette constructs by example

```
(define-symbolic id type)  
(define-symbolic* id type)
```

```
(assert expr)
```

```
(assume expr)
```

```
(verify expr)
```

```
(solve expr)
```

```
(synthesize
```

```
  #:forall expr
```

```
  #:guarantee expr)
```

# demo

<https://courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse507/21au/doc/bvudiv2.rkt>

# Common pitfalls and gotchas

Reasoning precision  
Unbounded loops  
Unsafe features



“A gotcha is a valid construct in a system, program or programming language that works as documented but is counter-intuitive and almost invites mistakes because it is both easy to invoke and unexpected or unreasonable in its outcome.”

—*Wikipedia*

<https://courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse507/21au/doc/gotchas.rkt>

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: reasoning precision

Reasoning precision

Unbounded loops

Unsafe features

- Determines if integers and reals are approximated using  $k$ -bit words or treated as infinite-precision values.
- Controlled by setting `current-bitwidth` to an integer  $k > 0$  or `#f` for approximate or precise reasoning, respectively.

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: reasoning precision

## Reasoning precision

Unbounded loops

Unsafe features

```
; default current-bitwidth is #f  
> (define-symbolic x integer?)  
> (solve (assert (= x 64)))
```

- Determines if integers and reals are approximated using k-bit words or treated as infinite-precision values.
- Controlled by setting current-bitwidth to an integer  $k > 0$  or #f for approximate or precise reasoning, respectively.



# Common pitfalls and gotchas: reasoning precision

## Reasoning precision

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- Determines if integers and reals are approximated using k-bit words or treated as infinite-precision values.
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```
; default current-bitwidth is #f  
> (define-symbolic x integer?)  
> (solve (assert (= x 64)))  
(model [x 64])
```

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: reasoning precision

## Reasoning precision

Unbounded loops

Unsafe features

- Determines if integers and reals are approximated using k-bit words or treated as infinite-precision values.
- Controlled by setting current-bitwidth to an integer  $k > 0$  or #f for approximate or precise reasoning, respectively.

```
; default current-bitwidth is #f
```

```
> (define-symbolic x integer?)
```

```
> (solve (assert (= x 64)))
```

```
(model [x 64])
```

```
> (verify (assert (not (= x 64))))
```

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: reasoning precision

## Reasoning precision

### Unbounded loops

### Unsafe features

- Determines if integers and reals are approximated using k-bit words or treated as infinite-precision values.
- Controlled by setting `current-bitwidth` to an integer  $k > 0$  or `#f` for approximate or precise reasoning, respectively.

```
; default current-bitwidth is #f
```

```
> (define-symbolic x integer?)
```

```
> (solve (assert (= x 64)))
```

```
(model [x 64])
```

```
> (verify (assert (not (= x 64))))
```

```
(model [x 64])
```

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: reasoning precision

## Reasoning precision

### Unbounded loops

### Unsafe features

- Determines if integers and reals are approximated using k-bit words or treated as infinite-precision values.
- Controlled by setting `current-bitwidth` to an integer  $k > 0$  or `#f` for approximate or precise reasoning, respectively.

```
; default current-bitwidth is #f
```

```
> (define-symbolic x integer?)
```

```
> (solve (assert (= x 64)))
```

```
(model [x 64])
```

```
> (verify (assert (not (= x 64))))
```

```
(model [x 64])
```

```
> (current-bitwidth 5)
```

```
> (solve (assert (= x 64)))
```

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: reasoning precision

## Reasoning precision

### Unbounded loops

### Unsafe features

- Determines if integers and reals are approximated using k-bit words or treated as infinite-precision values.
- Controlled by setting `current-bitwidth` to an integer  $k > 0$  or `#f` for approximate or precise reasoning, respectively.

```
; default current-bitwidth is #f
```

```
> (define-symbolic x integer?)
```

```
> (solve (assert (= x 64)))
```

```
(model [x 64])
```

```
> (verify (assert (not (= x 64))))
```

```
(model [x 64])
```

```
> (current-bitwidth 5)
```

```
> (solve (assert (= x 64)))
```

```
(model [x 0])
```

```
> (verify (assert (not (= x 64))))
```

```
(model [x 0])
```

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: unbounded loops

Reasoning precision

Unbounded loops

Unsafe features

- Loops and recursion must be *bounded* (aka *self-finitizing*) by
  - concrete termination conditions, or
  - upper bounds on size of iterated (symbolic) data structures.
- Unbounded loops and recursion run forever.

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: unbounded loops

Reasoning precision

Unbounded loops

Unsafe features

- Loops and recursion must be *bounded* (aka *self-finitizing*) by
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- Unbounded loops and recursion run forever.

```
(define (search x xs)
```

```
  (cond
```

```
    [(null? xs) #f]
```

```
    [(equal? x (car xs)) #t]
```

```
    [else (search x (cdr xs))]))
```

```
> (define-symbolic xs integer? #:length 5)
```

```
> (define-symbolic xl i integer?)
```

```
> (define ys (take xs xl))
```

```
> (verify
```

```
  (begin
```

```
    (assume (<= 0 i (- xl 1))
```

```
    (assert (search (list-ref ys i) ys))))
```

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: unbounded loops

Reasoning precision

Unbounded loops

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(define (search x xs)
  (cond
    [(null? xs) #f]
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> (define-symbolic xs integer? #:length 5)
> (define-symbolic xl i integer?)
> (define ys (take xs xl))
> (verify
  (begin
    (assume (<= 0 i (- xl 1))
      (assert (search (list-ref ys i) ys))))
  (unsat))
```

Terminates because search iterates over a bounded structure.



# Common pitfalls and gotchas: unbounded loops

Reasoning precision

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- Unbounded loops and recursion run forever.

```
(define (factorial n)
  (cond
    [(= n 0) 1]
    [else (* n (factorial (- n 1)))]))
```

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: unbounded loops

Reasoning precision

Unbounded loops

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- Loops and recursion must be *bounded* (aka *self-finitizing*) by
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```
(define (factorial n)
  (cond
    [(= n 0) 1]
    [else (* n (factorial (- n 1)))]))
```

```
> (define-symbolic k integer?)
```

```
> (solve
  (assert (> (factorial k) 10)))
```

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: unbounded loops

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(define (factorial n)
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```

```
> (define-symbolic k integer?)
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  (assert (> (factorial k) 10)))
```

Unbounded because factorial termination depends on k.

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: unbounded loops

Reasoning precision

Unbounded loops

Unsafe features

- Loops and recursion must be *bounded* (aka *self-finitizing*) by
  - concrete termination conditions, or
  - upper bounds on size of iterated (symbolic) data structures.
- Unbounded loops and recursion run forever.

Bound the recursion with a concrete guard.

```
(define (factorial n g)
  (assert (>= g 0))
  (cond
    [(= n 0) 1]
    [else (* n (factorial (- n 1) (- g 1)))]))
```

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: unbounded loops

Reasoning precision

Unbounded loops

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  (assert (>= g 0))
  (cond
    [(= n 0) 1]
    [else (* n (factorial (- n 1) (- g 1)))]))

> (define-symbolic k integer?)
> (solve
  (assert (> (factorial k 3) 10)))
```

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: unbounded loops

Reasoning precision

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```

```
> (define-symbolic k integer?)
> (solve
  (assert (> (factorial k 3) 10)))
```

(unsat)

UNSAT because the bound is too small to find a solution.

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: unbounded loops

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(define (factorial n g)
  (assert (>= g 0))
  (cond
    [(= n 0) 1]
    [else (* n (factorial (- n 1) (- g 1)))]))
```

```
> (define-symbolic k integer?)
> (solve
  (assert (> (factorial k 4) 10)))
```

```
(model
 [k 4])
```

Make sure the bound is large enough ...

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: unsafe features

Reasoning precision

Unbounded loops

Unsafe features

- Rosette *lifts* only a core subset of Racket to operate on symbolic values. This includes all constructs in `#lang rosette/safe`
- Unlifted constructs can be used in `#lang rosette` but require care: the programmer must determine when it is okay for symbolic values to flow to unlifted code.



# Common pitfalls and gotchas: unsafe features

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```
; vectors are lifted
```

```
> (define v (vector 1 2))
```

```
> (define-symbolic k integer?)
```

```
> (vector-ref v k)
```

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: unsafe features

Reasoning precision

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```
> (define v (vector 1 2))
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```
> (define-symbolic k integer?)
```

```
> (vector-ref v k)
```

```
(ite* (⊢ (= 0 k) 1) (⊢ (= 1 k) 2)))
```

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: unsafe features

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```
; vectors are lifted
```

```
> (define v (vector 1 2))
```

```
> (define-symbolic k integer?)
```

```
> (vector-ref v k)
```

```
(ite* (⊢ (= 0 k) 1) (⊢ (= 1 k) 2)))
```

```
; hashes are unlifted
```

```
> (define h (make-hash '((0 . 1)(1 . 2))))
```

```
> (hash-ref h k)
```

# Common pitfalls and gotchas: unsafe features

Reasoning precision

Unbounded loops

Unsafe features

- Rosette *lifts* only a core subset of Racket to operate on symbolic values. This includes all constructs in `#lang rosette/safe`
- Unlifted constructs can be used in `#lang rosette` but require care: the programmer must determine when it is okay for symbolic values to flow to unlifted code.

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; vectors are lifted
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> (define v (vector 1 2))
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```
> (define-symbolic k integer?)
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```
> (vector-ref v k)
```

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(ite* (⊢ (= 0 k) 1) (⊢ (= 1 k) 2)))
```

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; hashes are unlifted
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> (define h (make-hash '((0 . 1)(1 . 2))))
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> (hash-ref h k)
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hash-ref: no value found for key  
key: k
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# Common pitfalls and gotchas: unsafe features

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3
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A programming model that integrates solvers into the language, providing constructs for program verification, synthesis, and more.

**ROSETTE**

[emina.github.io/rosette/](https://emina.github.io/rosette/)

**Solver-aided programming in two parts:**  
**(1) getting started** and **(2) going pro**

How to use a solver-aided language: the workflow, constructs, and gotchas.

How to build your own solver-aided tool via direct symbolic evaluation or language embedding.

# Summary

## Today

- Course overview & logistics
- Getting started with solver-aided programming

## Next lecture

- Going pro with solver-aided programming