

# Separation Logics for Probability

(How to deal with REJECTIONS)

A logsem seminar  
by  
Heidi =>

21/10/24

What is this talk about??

- Logics for reasoning about probability

- Rules + key ideas + examples

- Key idea: Everything is a RESOURCE

What is this talk about ??

- Logics for reasoning about probability
- Rules + key ideas + examples
- Key idea: Everything is a RESOURCE

What is this talk **NOT** about ??

- How do you REALLY deal with rejection =C

25 Aug 2024, 11:49



Heyyyy I had such a great time too, your energy was great! Unfortunately, I'm not really looking for anything right now but I'd love to be friends if you want to 😊

Why do we care about

PROBABILITY

Write your answers in your  
notebooks now!

Monte Carlo algorithms

Efficient Data structures

Las Vegas algorithms

Why do we care about

♥♥♥ PROBABILITY ♥♥♥

Primality tests

Cryptography

Machine Learning  
(even.....)

Differential Privacy

and many more!

By probabilistic programs, we mean

randomized programs

(+ higher-order + local state)

$$(\text{rand } N, d) \xrightarrow{\frac{1}{N+1}} (n, d)$$

where  $n \in \{0, \dots, N\}$

By probabilistic programs, we mean

randomized programs

(+ higher-order + local state)

$$(\text{rand } N, \text{d}) \xrightarrow{\frac{1}{N+1}} (n, \text{d})$$

where  $n \in \{0, \dots, N\}$

Example

$$(\text{rand } 5, \text{d}) \xrightarrow{\frac{1}{6}} (n, \text{d})$$

where  $0 \leq n \leq 5$

By probabilistic programs, we mean

randomized programs

(+ higher-order + local state)

$$(\text{rand } N, \text{d}) \xrightarrow{\frac{1}{N+1}} (n, \text{d})$$

where  $n \in \{0, \dots, N\}$

Example

$$(\text{rand } 5, \text{d}) \xrightarrow{\frac{1}{6}} (n, \text{d})$$

where  $0 \leq n \leq 5$

NB: We don't consider fancy stuff like inference / continuous distributions

# The Motivating Example

## Rejection Sampler

RS  $\triangleq$   $\lambda$  - . let  $x = \text{rand } 2$  in  
if  $x < 2$  then  $x$  else RS ()

# The Motivating Example

## Rejection Sampler

RS  $\triangleq$   $\lambda$  - . let  $x = \text{rand } 2$  in  
if  $x < 2$  then  $x$  else RS ()

Q: What properties does RS have??

\* Write your answers in your notebooks now! \*

# The Motivating Example

## Rejection Sampler

RS  $\triangleq$   $\lambda$  . let  $x = \text{rand } 2$  in  
if  $x < 2$  then  $x$  else RS ()

Q: What properties does RS have??

A: - Returns 0 or 1 with 50% probability

- Almost sure termination

- Positive almost sure termination

- Contextual equivalence with  $\text{rand } 1$

- Logically atomically similar with  $\text{rand } 1$  and many more...!

## Aim of Today

1. Prove expected time cost of RS

2. Prove error bounds of return value of RS

3.\* Prove bounds of favorable return value of RS

# Aim of Today

1. Prove expected time cost of RS with Tachis (OOPSLA 2024)
2. Prove error bounds of return value of RS with Eris (ICFP 2024)
- 3\* Prove bounds of favorable return value of RS with Eris<sub>t</sub> (ICFP 2024)

Act I

Start of TIME

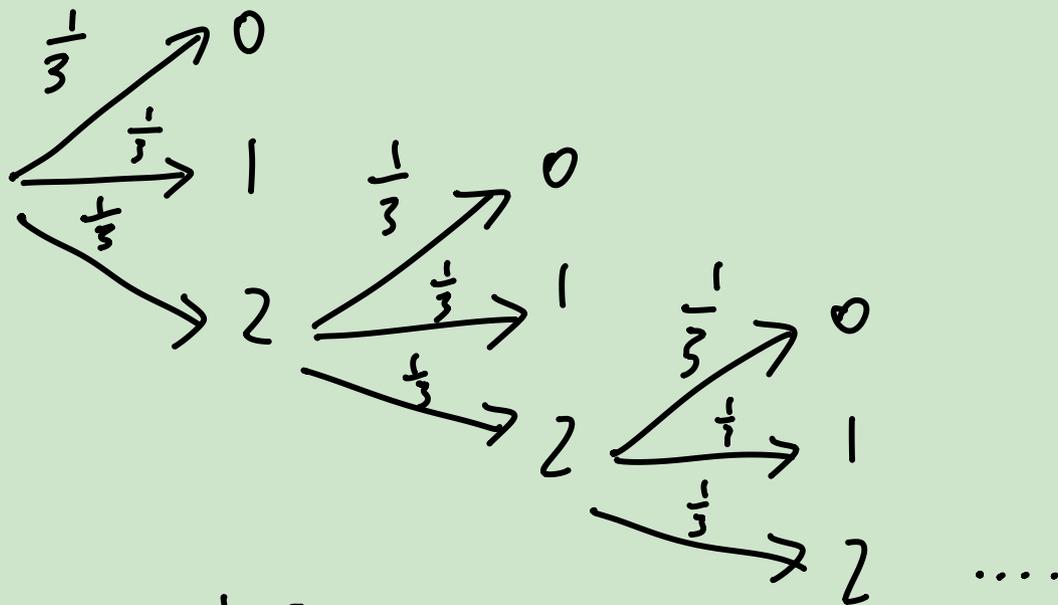
**I**

What is the expected number of "rands"  
executed in RS ?

RS  $\hat{=}$   $\lambda$  . let  $x = \text{rand } 2$  in  
if  $x < 2$  then  $x$  else RS ( )

What is the expected number of "rands" executed in RS ?

RS  $\triangleq$   $\lambda$ \_. let  $x = \text{rand } 2$  in  
if  $x < 2$  then  $x$  else RS ()



$$1 + \frac{1}{3} (1 + \frac{1}{3} (1 + \dots))$$

$$= 1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{27} + \dots$$

$$= 1 \left( \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{3}} \right) = 1 \cdot \frac{1}{\frac{2}{3}} = \frac{3}{2} //$$

Key idea 1: Computation cost as a RESOURCE!

$\mathbb{I} x$  denotes ownership of  $x \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  cost credits

Credit splitting rule

$$\mathbb{I} (x_1 + x_2) \dashv\vdash \mathbb{I} x_1 * \mathbb{I} x_2$$

Key idea 1: Computation cost as a RESOURCE!

$\mathbb{I}_x$  denotes ownership of  $x \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  cost credits

Credit splitting rule

$$\mathbb{I}_{(x_1 + x_2)} \dashv\vdash \mathbb{I}_{x_1} * \mathbb{I}_{x_2}$$

Adequacy Theorem of Tachis:

$\{\mathbb{I}_x\} \in \{\text{True}\} \Rightarrow$  for any state  $d$ ,  
expected number of **rand** executed by  
 $(e, d) \leq x$

Key idea 2 : Expectation-preserving  
Composition

$$1 + \sum_{n=0}^N \frac{X_2(n)}{N+1} \leq x_1$$

---

$\{ \mathbb{I}_{x_1} \}_{\text{rand } N} \{ \mathbb{I}_{(X_2(n))} \}_{0 \leq n \leq N}$  HT-RAND-EXP

# Key idea 2 : Expectation-preserving Composition

$$1 + \sum_{n=0}^N \frac{X_2(n)}{N+1} \leq x_1$$

cost of rand  $\hookrightarrow$   $1 + \sum_{n=0}^N \frac{X_2(n)}{N+1}$   
 average credit remaining  $\leftarrow$   $\frac{X_2(n)}{N+1}$   
 $\leq x_1$   $\leftarrow$  initial credits

---


$$\{ \prod x_i \} \text{ rand } N \{ \prod (X_2(n)) \text{ for } 0 \leq n \leq N \}$$

HT-RAND-EXP

This is THE crucial rule of Tachis!

Other rules are similar to 'normal ones', e.g.

$$\{ l \mapsto v \} ! l \{ x . l \mapsto v \text{ for } x = v \}$$

# DEMO

Hypothesis

Goal

Expected number of rand executed  
in  $RS() \leq \frac{3}{2}$

# DEMO

Hypothesis

Goal

$\left\{ \int \frac{3}{2} \right\} RS \quad (1) \quad \{ True \}$

by adequacy theorem of  
Tachis

# DEMO

Hypothesis

Goal

  $\frac{3}{2}$

wp **RS** () { True }

i Intros

# DEMO

Hypothesis

Goal

$\Sigma^{3/2}$

wp  $RS() \{True\}$

▶ ( $\Sigma^{3/2} \neq$  wp  $RS() \{True\}$ )

ilöb that MF

# DEMO

Hypothesis

$$\mathbb{I}_{3/2}$$

$$\mathbb{I}_{3/2} \text{ -- * up } RS() \{True\}$$

Goal

wp let  $x = \text{rand } 2$  in  
 if  $x < 2$  then  $x$  else  $RS() \{True\}$

$$1 + \sum_{n=0}^N \frac{X_2(n)}{N+1} \leq x_1$$

---


$$\{ \mathbb{I}_{x_1} \} \text{ rand } N \{ n. \mathbb{I}(X_2(n)) \text{ * } \{ 0 \leq n \leq N \} \}$$

# DEMO

Hypothesis

$$\sum X_2(n)$$

$$\sum \frac{3}{2} - * \text{ up } RS() \{True\}$$

$$0 \leq n \leq 2$$

$$X_2(n) \triangleq \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n < 2 \\ \frac{3}{2} & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

Goal

wp let  $x = n$  in  
if  $x < 2$  then  $x$  else  $RS() \{True\}$

Note that  $1 + \frac{0+0+\frac{3}{2}}{3}$   
 $= 1 + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{2}$

$$1 + \sum_{n=0}^N \frac{X_2(n)}{N+1} \leq x_i$$

---


$$\{ \sum x_i \} \text{ rand } N \{ n. \sum (X_2(n)) * \{ 0 \leq n \leq N \} \}$$

# DEMO

Hypothesis

$$\mathbb{I} X_2(n)$$

$$\mathbb{I} \frac{3}{2} - * \text{ w.p. } RS() \{True\}$$

$$0 \leq n \leq 2$$

$$X_2(n) \triangleq \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n < 2 \\ \frac{3}{2} & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

Goal

w.p. if  $n < 2$  then  $n$  else  $RS() \{True\}$

Continue the rest of the proof  
by case analysis  
(left as exercise)

# Key Ideas of Tachis

1. Costs can be realized as a **RESOURCE** \*
2. Cost credits are distributed across branches  
in an **EXPECTATION-PRESERVING MANNER** \*

$$1 + \sum_{n=0}^N \frac{X_2(n)}{N+1} \leq x_1$$

---

$$\{ \mathbb{I} x_1 \} \text{ rand } N \{ \mathbb{I} (X_2(n)) \neq \{ 0 \leq n \leq N \} \} \text{ HT-RAND-EXP}$$

# Also in the Tachis paper

- Cost models
  - Cost app
  - Cost pick
  - Cost entropy
- Amortized Reasoning
- Many MANY examples
  - Fisher - yates shuffle
  - Coupon collector
  - Quicksort
  - Meldable heaps

## Tachis: Higher-Order Separation Logic with Credits for Expected Costs

PHILIPP G. HASELWARTER, Aarhus University, Denmark

KWING HEI LI, Aarhus University, Denmark

MARKUS DE MEDEIROS, New York University, USA

SIMON ODDERSHEDE GREGERSEN, New York University, USA

ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE, Aarhus University, Denmark

JOSEPH TASSAROTTI, New York University, USA

LARS BIRKEDAL, Aarhus University, Denmark

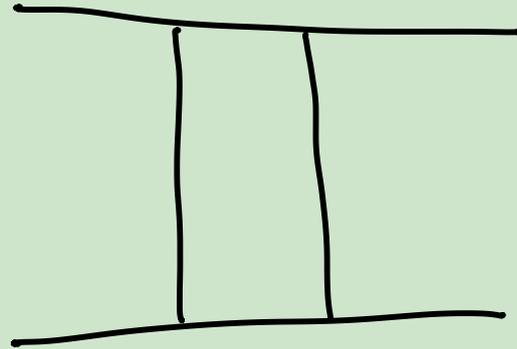
We present Tachis, a higher-order separation logic to reason about the expected cost of probabilistic programs. Inspired by the uses of time credits for reasoning about the running time of deterministic programs, we introduce a novel notion of probabilistic cost credit. Probabilistic cost credits are a separation logic resource that can be used to pay for the cost of operations in programs, and that can be distributed across all possible branches of sampling instructions according to their weight, thus enabling us to reason about expected cost. The representation of cost credits as separation logic resources gives Tachis a great deal of flexibility and expressivity. In particular, it permits reasoning about amortized expected cost by storing excess credits as potential into data structures to pay for future operations. Tachis further supports a range of cost models, including running time and entropy usage. We showcase the versatility of this approach by applying our techniques to prove upper bounds on the expected cost of a variety of probabilistic algorithms and data structures, including randomized quicksort, hash tables, and meldable heaps. All of our results have been mechanized using Coq, Iris, and the Coquelicot real analysis library.

PAUSE



Press any key to continue ...

Act



Worlds of  
ERROR



Context: Many data-structures / algorithms trade accuracy for efficiency (SPEED) (MEMORY)

- Bloom filters
- Hashes
- Miller Rabin

Aim: We want to upper bound the probability for an error result

Context: Many data-structures / algorithms trade accuracy for efficiency (SPEED) (MEMORY)

- Bloom filters
- Hashes
- Miller Rabin

Aim: We want to upper bound the probability for an error result

Example: Suppose the return of the value 1 is an undesirable error result, how can we bound the error probability at  $R5()$

Key idea 1: Computation cost as a RESOURCE!

Key idea 1: ~~Computation cost~~ as a RESOURCE!  
ERROR

↳  $\varepsilon$  denotes ownership of  $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  error credits

Credit splitting rule

↳  $\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 \dashv\vdash \varepsilon_1 * \varepsilon_2$

Key idea 1: ~~Computation cost~~ as a RESOURCE!  
ERROR

$\hookrightarrow \mathcal{E}$  denotes ownership of  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  error credits

Credit splitting rule

$\hookrightarrow \mathcal{E}_1 + \mathcal{E}_2 \vdash \mathcal{E}_1 * \mathcal{E}_2$

New! Credit One rule

$\hookrightarrow 1 \vdash \text{False}$

(Why is this intuitively true???)

# Adequacy Theorem of Eris

$\{\epsilon\} e \{\phi\} \Rightarrow$  the probability  $e$  returns  
a value in  $\neg\phi \leq \epsilon$

NB: If  $e$  does not terminate,  $\{\epsilon\} e \{\phi\}$  holds  
\*TRIVIALY\* !!

# Key idea 2 : Expectation-preserving Composition

$$\cancel{1} + \sum_{n=0}^N \frac{X_2(n)}{N+1} \leq x_1$$

---

$$\{ \cancel{x_1} \} \text{ rand } N \{ n. \cancel{(X_2(n))} * \{ 0 \leq n \leq N \} \} \quad \text{HT-RAND-EXP}$$

This is THE main rule of Eris!

Other rules remain the same, e.g.

$$\{ l \mapsto v_1 \} l \leftarrow v_2 \{ x. l \mapsto v_2 * \{ x = () \} \}$$

# DEMO

Hypothesis

Goal

Prob of RS ( ) returning 1  
 $\leq \frac{1}{2}$

# DEMO

Hypothesis

Goal

$$\{ \frac{1}{2} \} \text{ RS } (1) \{ v, v \neq 1 \}$$

By adequacy theorem of  
Fris

# DEMO

Hypothesis

$\leq 1/2$

Goal

wp RS (1)  $\{v, v \neq 1\}$

i Intros

# DEMO

Hypothesis

$$\zeta \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\triangleright \left( \zeta \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow *_{wp} RS() \{v, v \neq 1\} \right)$$

Goal

$$wp \quad RS() \{v, v \neq 1\}$$

iLöb that MF!

# DEMO

Hypothesis

$$\Leftarrow \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\left( \Leftarrow \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow * \text{wp RS } () \{v, v \neq 1\} \right)$$

Goal

wp let  $x = \text{rand } 2$  in

if  $x < 2$  then  $x$  else  $\text{RS } ()$

$$\{v, v \neq 1\}$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^N \frac{X_2(n)}{N+1} \leq x_1$$

$$\{ \Leftarrow x_1 \} \text{rand } N \{n, \Leftarrow (X_2(n)) + \{0 \leq n \leq N\}\}$$

# D E M O

Hypothesis

$$\hookrightarrow X_2(n)$$

$$\left( \hookrightarrow \frac{1}{2} \text{ -- * wp RS } ( ) \{ v. v \neq 1 \} \right)$$

$$0 \leq n \leq 2$$

$$X_2 \triangleq \lambda n. \text{ if } n=0 \text{ then } 0 \\ \text{ else if } n=1 \text{ then } 1 \\ \text{ else } 1/2$$

Goal

wp let  $x = n$  in  
if  $x < 2$  then  $x$  else RS ( )  
 $\{ v. v \neq 1 \}$

Note .  $\frac{0+1+\frac{1}{2}}{3} = \frac{\frac{3}{2}}{3} = \frac{1}{2}$

$$\sum_{n=0}^N \frac{X_2(n)}{N+1} \leq x_1$$

---


$$\{ \hookrightarrow x_1 \} \text{ rand } N \{ n. \hookrightarrow (X_2(n)) \neq \{ 0 \leq n \leq N \} \}$$

# DEMO

Hypothesis

$$\Leftarrow X_2(n)$$

$$\left( \Leftarrow \frac{1}{2} \text{ -- * wp RS } (v) \{v, v \neq 1\} \right)$$

$$0 \leq n \leq 2$$

$$X_2 \triangleq \lambda n. \text{ if } n=0 \text{ then } 0 \\ \text{ else if } n=1 \text{ then } 1 \\ \text{ else } 1/2$$

Goal

wp if  $n < 2$  then  $n$  else  $RS (v)$

$$\{v, v \neq 1\}$$

Proceed by case analysis  
(Exercise for the audience :))

# Key Ideas of Tachis Eris

1. ~~Costs~~ can be realized as a **RESOURCE** \*
2. ~~Cost~~ credits are distributed across branches  
in an **EXPECTATION-PRESERVING MANNER** \*

$$\sum_{n=0}^N \frac{X_2(n)}{N+1} \leq x_1$$

---


$$\{ \zeta x_1 \} \text{ rand } N \{ n. \zeta (X_2(n)) \neq \{ 0 \leq n \leq N \} \}$$

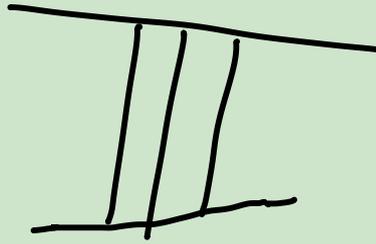
+  $\zeta 1 \vdash \text{False}$

PAUSE



Press any key to continue ...

Act



Principle

of

Amplification

Recall the adequacy theorem of Eris:

$\{\epsilon\} e \{\phi\} \Rightarrow$  the probability  $e$  returns  
a value in  $\neg\phi \leq \epsilon$

We know nothing about the probability of  $e$  returning  
a value in  $\phi$ !

e.g. an infinite loop  $\Omega \triangleq \text{rec } f\ x = f\ x$

What if non-termination is also treated as  
an error/unfavorable result?

Introducing...

Eris<sub>t</sub>

# Adequacy Theorem of $\text{Eris}_\epsilon$ :

$\langle \epsilon \rangle e \langle \phi \rangle \Rightarrow$  the probability  $e$  returns  
a value in  $\phi \geq 1 - \epsilon$

# Adequacy Theorem of $Eris_{\epsilon}$ :

$\langle \forall \epsilon \rangle e \langle \phi \rangle \Rightarrow$  the probability  $e$  returns  
a value in  $\phi \geq 1 - \epsilon$

$Eris_{\epsilon}$  has ALL rules of  $Eris$  .....

except

lob induction



1 like =  
1 prayer

Key idea 1 : Error amplification

$\epsilon > 0$

$\forall \epsilon' \in (k \cdot \epsilon) - \epsilon$   $\rightarrow \epsilon' \vdash P$

$k > 1$

IND-ERR-AMP

---

$\epsilon \vdash P$

This is THE main rule of Erise

# Key idea 1 : Error amplification

$\epsilon > 0$

$\forall \epsilon' (\exists (k \cdot \epsilon') \rightarrow P) \rightarrow \exists \epsilon' \vdash P$

$k > 1$

IND-ERR-AMP

---

$\exists \epsilon \vdash P$

Intuition : If you have  $\epsilon > 0$  error credits, and you are able to amplify it by  $k > 1$  repeatedly, you will eventually reach  $\exists 1$  error credits!

$\epsilon \rightarrow k \cdot \epsilon \rightarrow k^2 \cdot \epsilon \rightarrow k^3 \cdot \epsilon \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow k^n \cdot \epsilon \geq 1$

This is THE main rule of Erise

Key Idea 2: Error credits from  
THIN AIR!



$$\left( \frac{\forall \epsilon. \langle P * \epsilon * \tau_{\epsilon} \rangle \text{ e } \langle Q \rangle}{\langle P \rangle \text{ e } \langle Q \rangle} \right) \text{ THIN-AIR}$$

To prove any Hoare triple, you can generate  
some **ARBITRARILY** small error credit

# DEMO

Hypothesis

Goal

Prob of RS ( ) returning 0  
 $\leq \frac{1}{2} = 1 - \frac{1}{2}$

# DEMO

Hypothesis

Goal

$$\langle \xi \frac{1}{2} \rangle \text{ RS } () \langle v. v=0 \rangle$$

By adequacy theorem of  
Erisé

# DEMO

Hypothesis

$\frac{1}{2}$

Goal

exp

RS ( )  $\langle v. v=0 \rangle$

i Intros

# DEMO

Hypothesis	Goal
$\epsilon \gg 0$	exp $RS(\epsilon) \langle v, v=0 \rangle$
$\hookrightarrow \epsilon$	
$\hookrightarrow \frac{1}{2}$	
	Thin-air law $\Rightarrow$

# D E M O

Hypothesis

Goal

$$\epsilon > 0$$

$$\hookrightarrow \epsilon$$

$$\hookrightarrow \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\text{loop } RS() \langle v, v=0 \rangle$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} \hookrightarrow (3 \cdot \epsilon) \rightarrow * \hookrightarrow \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow * \\ \text{loop } RS() \langle v, v=0 \rangle \end{array} \right)$$

$$\epsilon > 0$$

$$k > 1$$

$$\forall \epsilon'. (\hookrightarrow (k \cdot \epsilon') \rightarrow * P) \rightarrow \hookrightarrow \epsilon' \vdash P$$

$$\hookrightarrow \epsilon \vdash P$$

Error induction rule  
(take  $k=3$ )

# DEMO

Hypothesis	Goal
$\epsilon > 0$	twp let $x = \text{rand } 2$ in
$\hookrightarrow \epsilon$	if $x < 2$ then $x$ else $RS()$
$\hookrightarrow \frac{1}{2}$	$\langle v, v=0 \rangle$
$(\hookrightarrow (3 \cdot \epsilon) \rightarrow * \hookrightarrow \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow * \text{twp } RS() \langle v, v=0 \rangle)$	$\sum_{n=0}^N \frac{X_2(n)}{N+1} \leq x_1$
	$\langle \hookrightarrow x_1 \rangle_{\text{rand } N} \langle n, \hookrightarrow (X_2(n)) \neq "0 \leq n \leq N" \rangle$

# D E M O

Hypothesis

Goal

$$\epsilon > 0$$

$$\sum X_2(n)$$

$$\left( \sum (3 \cdot \epsilon) \rightarrow * \sum \frac{1}{2} - * \right. \\ \left. \text{twp } RS() \langle v, v=0 \rangle \right)$$

$$X_2 \triangleq \lambda n. \text{ if } n=0 \text{ then } 0 \\ \text{else if } n=1 \text{ then } 1 \\ \text{else } \frac{1}{2} + 3 \cdot \epsilon$$

twp let  $x = n$  in  
if  $x < 2$  then  $x$  else  $RS()$

$\langle v, v=0 \rangle$

$$\sum_{n=0}^N \frac{X_2(n)}{N+1} \leq x_1$$

$\langle \sum x_i \rangle_{\text{rand } N} \langle n. \sum (X_2(n)) + \text{" } 0 \leq n \leq N \text{"} \rangle$

# DEMO

Hypothesis

Goal

$$\epsilon > 0$$

$$\exists X_2(n)$$

$$0 \leq n \leq 2$$

twp if  $n < 2$  then  $n$  else  $RS()$

$\langle v. v=0 \rangle$

$(\exists (3 \cdot \epsilon) \rightarrow * \exists \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow * \text{twp } RS() \langle v. v=0 \rangle)$

$X_2 \triangleq \lambda n. \text{ if } n=0 \text{ then } 0$   
 $\text{ else if } n=1 \text{ then } 1$   
 $\text{ else } \frac{1}{2} + 3 \cdot \epsilon$

Proceed by case analysis  
 (exercise  $\Rightarrow$ )

# Key ideas of Eriste

- Error amplification rule
- Error credits from

Thin air

$\epsilon > 0$

$k > 1$

$$\forall \epsilon'. (\exists (k \cdot \epsilon') \rightarrow P) \rightarrow \exists \epsilon' \vdash P$$

---


$$\exists \epsilon \vdash P$$

\*

$$\frac{(\forall \epsilon. \langle P * \exists \epsilon * \lceil \epsilon > 0 \rceil \rangle \in \langle Q \rangle)}{\langle P \rangle \in \langle Q \rangle}$$

# Also more in the Eris/Eris<sub>ε</sub> paper

- Amortized reasoning
- Presampling tapes

$$\{ \alpha \hookrightarrow (N, n :: ns) \}$$

rand( $\alpha$ )  $\mathbb{N}$

$$\{ v. \tau v = n^? * \alpha \hookrightarrow (N, ns) \}$$

- Many MANY examples

- Escaping spline

- Walk SAT

- Merkle trees

## Error Credits: Resourceful Reasoning about Error Bounds for Higher-Order Probabilistic Programs

ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE, Aarhus University, Denmark

PHILIPP G. HASELWARTER, Aarhus University, Denmark

MARKUS DE MEDEIROS, New York University, USA

KWING HEI LI, Aarhus University, Denmark

SIMON ODDERSHEDE GREGERSEN\*, New York University, USA

JOSEPH TASSAROTTI, New York University, USA

LARS BIRKEDAL, Aarhus University, Denmark

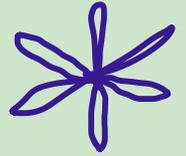
Probabilistic programs often trade accuracy for efficiency, and thus may, with a small probability, return an incorrect result. It is important to obtain precise bounds for the probability of these errors, but existing verification approaches have limitations that lead to error probability bounds that are excessively coarse, or only apply to first-order programs. In this paper we present Eris, a higher-order separation logic for proving error probability bounds for probabilistic programs written in an expressive higher-order language.

Our key novelty is the introduction of *error credits*, a separation logic resource that tracks an upper bound on the probability that a program returns an erroneous result. By representing error bounds as a resource, we recover the benefits of separation logic, including compositionality, modularity, and dependency between errors and program terms, allowing for more precise specifications. Moreover, we enable novel reasoning principles such as expectation-preserving error composition, amortized error reasoning, and error induction.

We illustrate the advantages of our approach by proving amortized error bounds on a range of examples, including collision probabilities in hash functions, which allow us to write more modular specifications for data structures that use them as clients. We also use our logic to prove correctness and almost-sure termination of rejection sampling algorithms. All of our results have been mechanized in the Coq proof assistant using the Iris separation logic framework and the Coquelicot real analysis library.

# Main takeaways

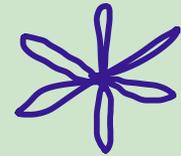
- Errors / cost can be realized as credit  
(amortization / concurrency)
- Expectation preserving rule for rand
- Error amplification induction principle  
(Super powerful!)
- Arbitrary small error credit



Everything formalized  
in Iris

# Main take aways

- Errors / cost can be realized as credit  
(amortization / concurrency)
- Expectation preserving rule for rand
- Error amplification induction principle  
(Super powerful!)
- Arbitrary small error credit

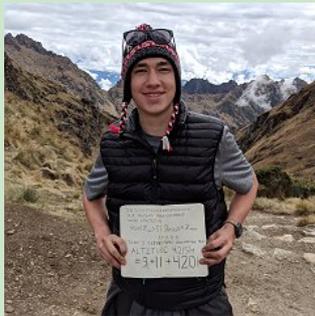


Everything formalized  
in Iris

## Future work

- Concurrency
- Logically randomized atomicity
- Applications to security
- Continuous distributions
- One logic to rule them all 

# "Lars Probability Mafia"



Many other k3wl logics not discussed in this talk!



Clutch for asynchronous couplings (POPL 2024)  
rand 3 ~~rand 3~~ rand 3

Approxis for approximate couplings  
rand 3  $\epsilon$  rand 4

Caliper for termination preserving  
refinement  
ICEP 2024