

Automated Reasoning and Formal Verification

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Automated Reasoning and Formal Verification

- ▶ What is verification by automated reasoning?
- ▶ Direct theorem proving versus embedded theorem proving
- ▶ Examples (Fox, Hurd, Slind)
- ▶ Theorem provers as tool implementation platforms
- ▶ Debugging versus proof of correctness, proof as IP
- ▶ Conclusions, opinions

What is verification by automated reasoning

- ▶ Use of a **theorem prover** to aid verification.

Here's an arbitrary selection of applications:

parts of processors (e.g. pipelines, floating point units),
 whole processors, crypto hardware, security protocols,
 synchronization protocols, distributed algorithms, synthesis,
 system properties (e.g. separation), compilers, code transformation,
 high level code, machine code, proof carrying code,
 meta-theorems about property/hardware/software/design languages,
 flight control systems, railway signalling, ...

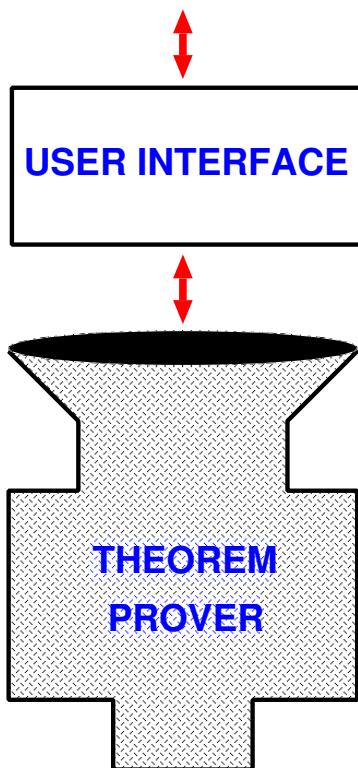
- ▶ Broad interpretation of theorem proving includes most FV methods

Verification task	Theorem proving technique	Theorems proved
boolean equivalence	propositional algorithms (BDD, SAT etc)	$\vdash (B_1 = B_2)$
model checking	fixpoint calculation, automata algorithms etc	$\vdash (\mathcal{M} \models P)$
assertion checking	decision procedures, first-order methods	$\vdash f$
proof of correctness	induction, heuristic search, interactive proof	$\vdash \mathcal{F}$

Direct versus embedded theorem proving

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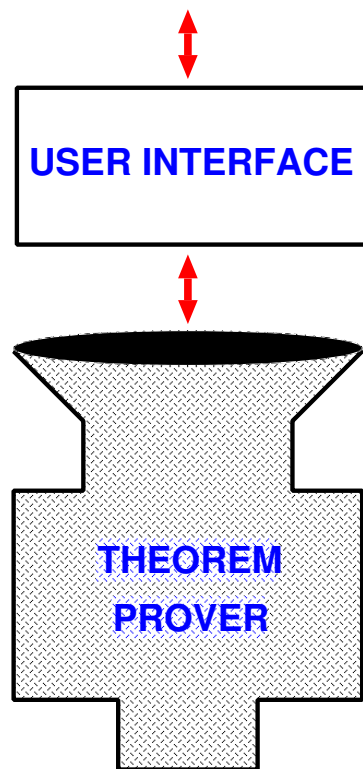
USER FORMULATES PROBLEMS
IN FORMAL LOGIC



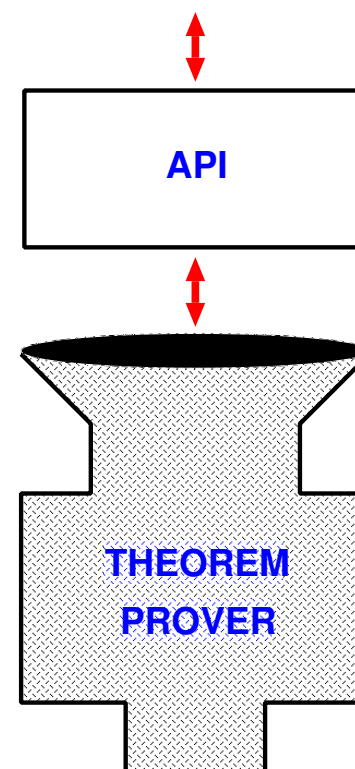
Direct versus embedded theorem proving

- ▶ Theorem prover can be used directly or embedded in a tool

USER FORMULATES PROBLEMS
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VERIFICATION TOOL WITH OWN
PROBLEM DESCRIPTION LANGUAGE



Direct and embedded theorem proving

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 - e.g. processor proofs, verification of floating point algorithms
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 - Example: ARM6 verification
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 - Example: PSL/Sugar semantics directed tools

Proving processors correct

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- ▶ But is it worthwhile?

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 - unimpressed by time taken
 - verification is debugging, not assurance

Debugging versus assurance: opinions are divided

▶ Find bugs, not proofs

Proofs have low value. Counter-examples have very high value.

Counter-example technologies have seen tremendous advances over last few years.

Proof technologies have not made much progress.

Design teams that try a revolutionary path (e.g., “proving correctness”) will miss their next tapeouts and be out of business (or out of jobs).

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... senior staff engineer at XXXX, said formal verification has two possible applications finding bugs in RTL code, and gaining assurance of zero bugs prior to tapeout. “What we’ve found at XXXX, although we do find bugs, is that the real value of formal verification is the assurance,” ...

[<http://www.eedesign.com/story/0EG20030606S0017>]

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- theorem proving methods getting better and better
- computers faster and cheaper, so deep proof search more practical
- reusable IP needs specifications with correctness assurance

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- ▶ How to combine debugging FV with assurance theorem proving?

Current research on theorem proving for FV

- ▶ Add checking and simulation to a theorem prover
- ▶ Add theorem proving to a model checker
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 - security versus efficiency (assurance versus debugging)
 - programmability (ease-of-use versus flexibility and power)

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 - fully expansive model checker (BDDs + SAT for refinements) – Amjad
 - `puzzleTool`: rewrite puzzle descriptions to QBFs, solve with BDDs

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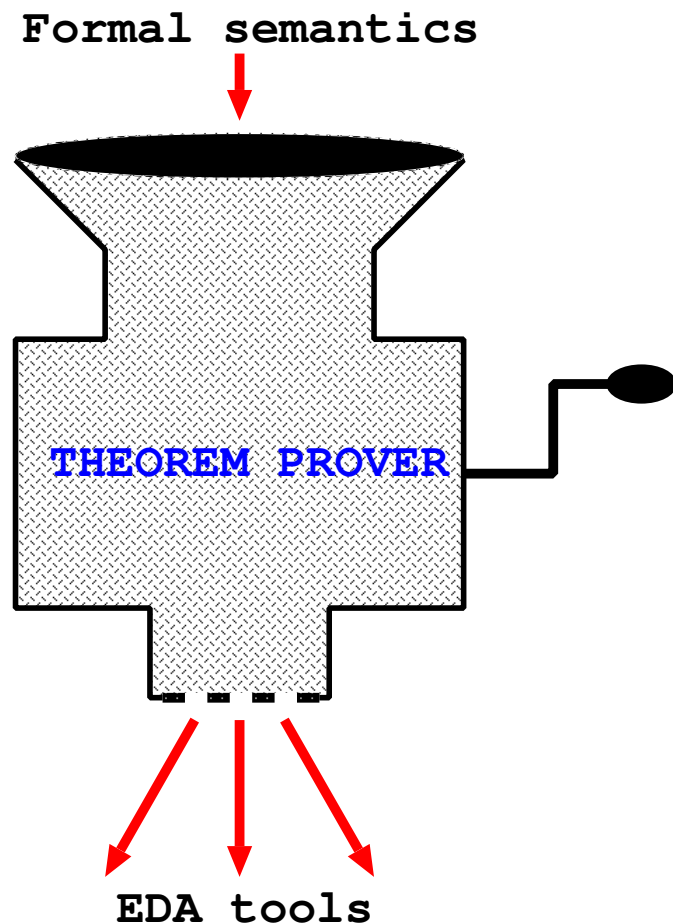
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 - EDA tools with theorem prover inside (*c.f.* PROSPER)

Use theorem proving to generate tools from semantics

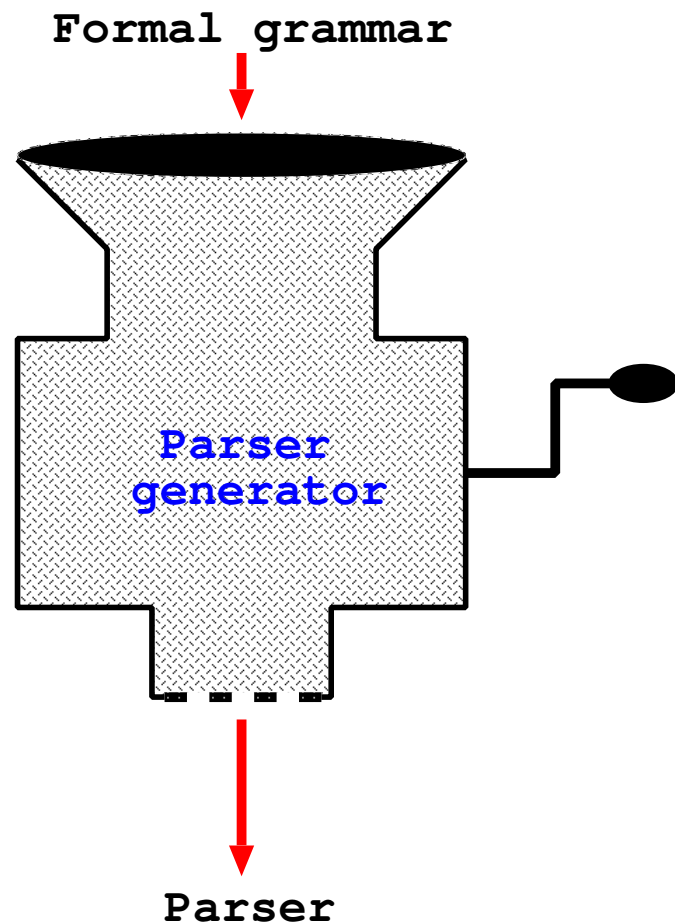
Use theorem proving to generate tools from semantics



- ▶ Input 'golden' semantics from LRM
- ▶ Perform mechanised proof
- ▶ Generate tools

Compare with generating tools from syntax

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- ▶ Input a grammar
- ▶ Apply theory of formal languages
- ▶ Generate a parser

Accellera's PSL (formerly IBM's Sugar 2.0)

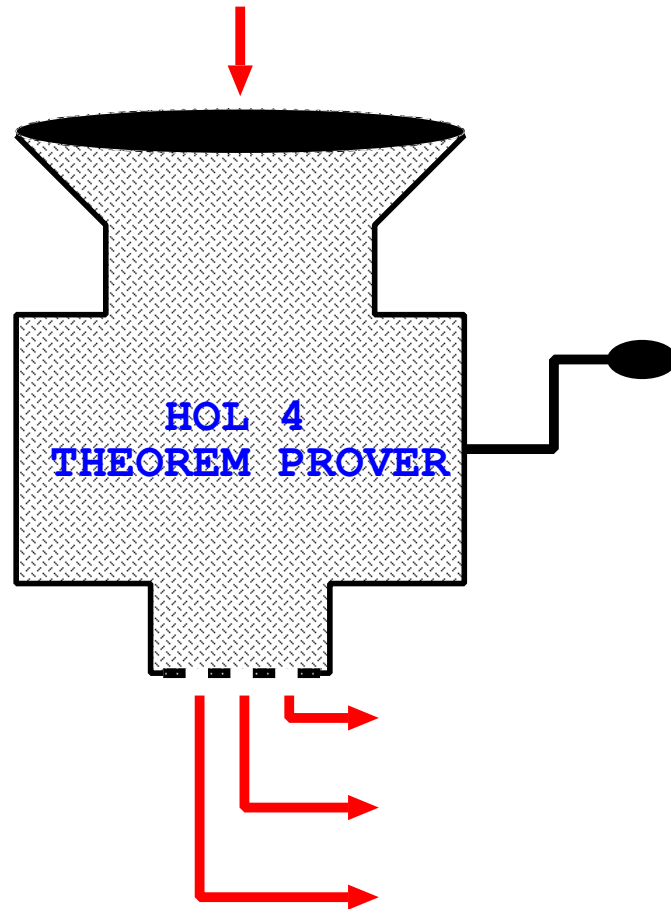
- ▶ PSL is a property specification language combining
 - boolean expressions (Verilog syntax)
 - patterns (Sequential Extended Regular Expressions SEREs)
 - LTL formulas (Foundation language FL)
 - CTL formulas (Optional Branching Extension OBE)

- ▶ Designed both for model checking and simulation testbenches

- ▶ Intended to be the industry standard

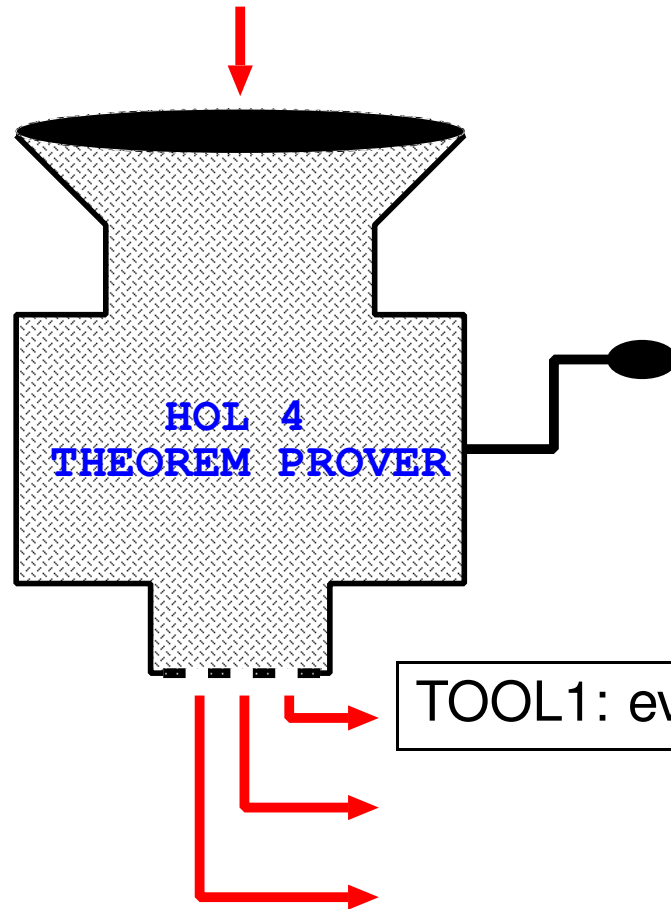
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Official semantics of PSL



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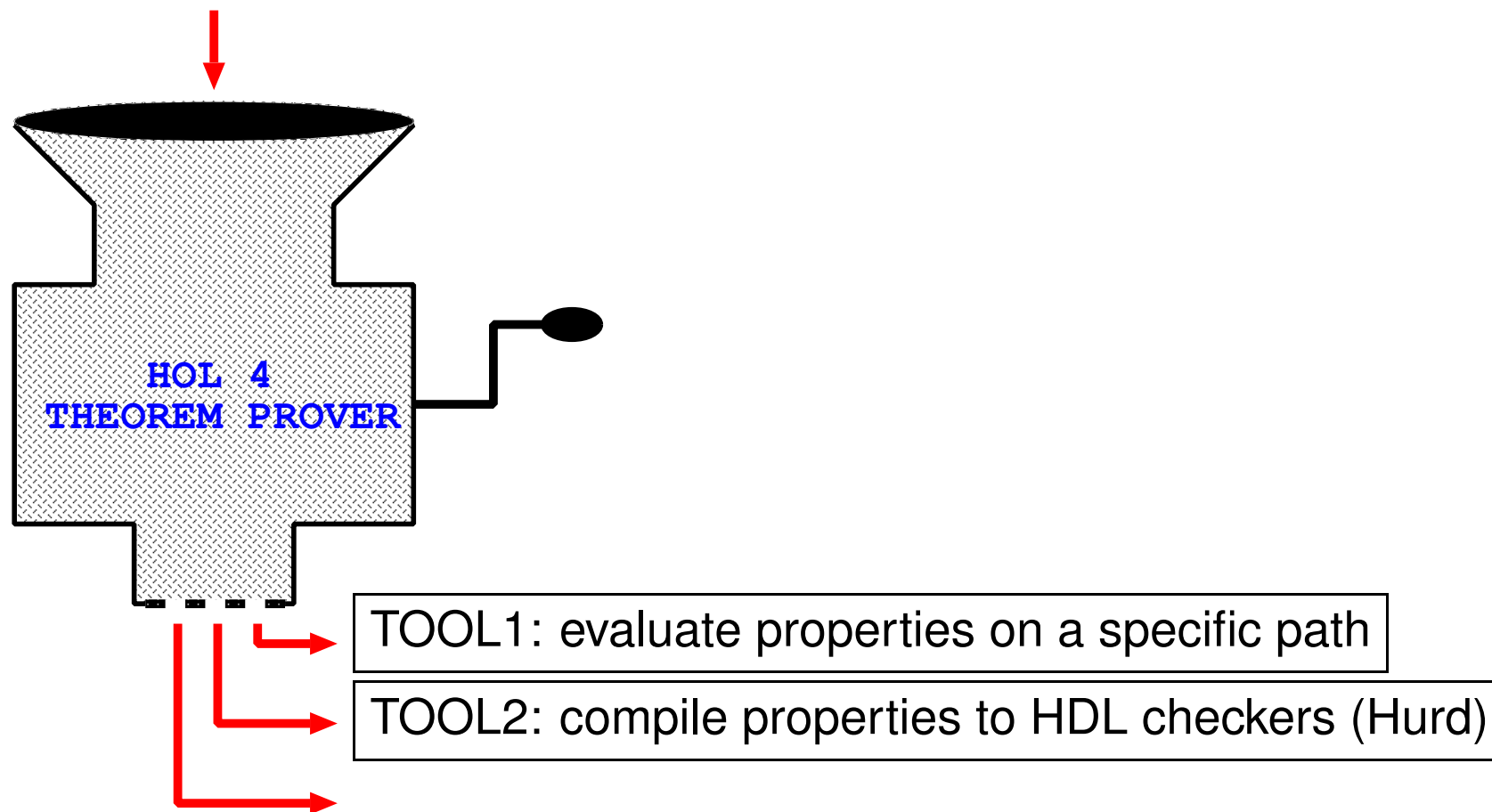
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TOOL1: evaluate properties on a specific path

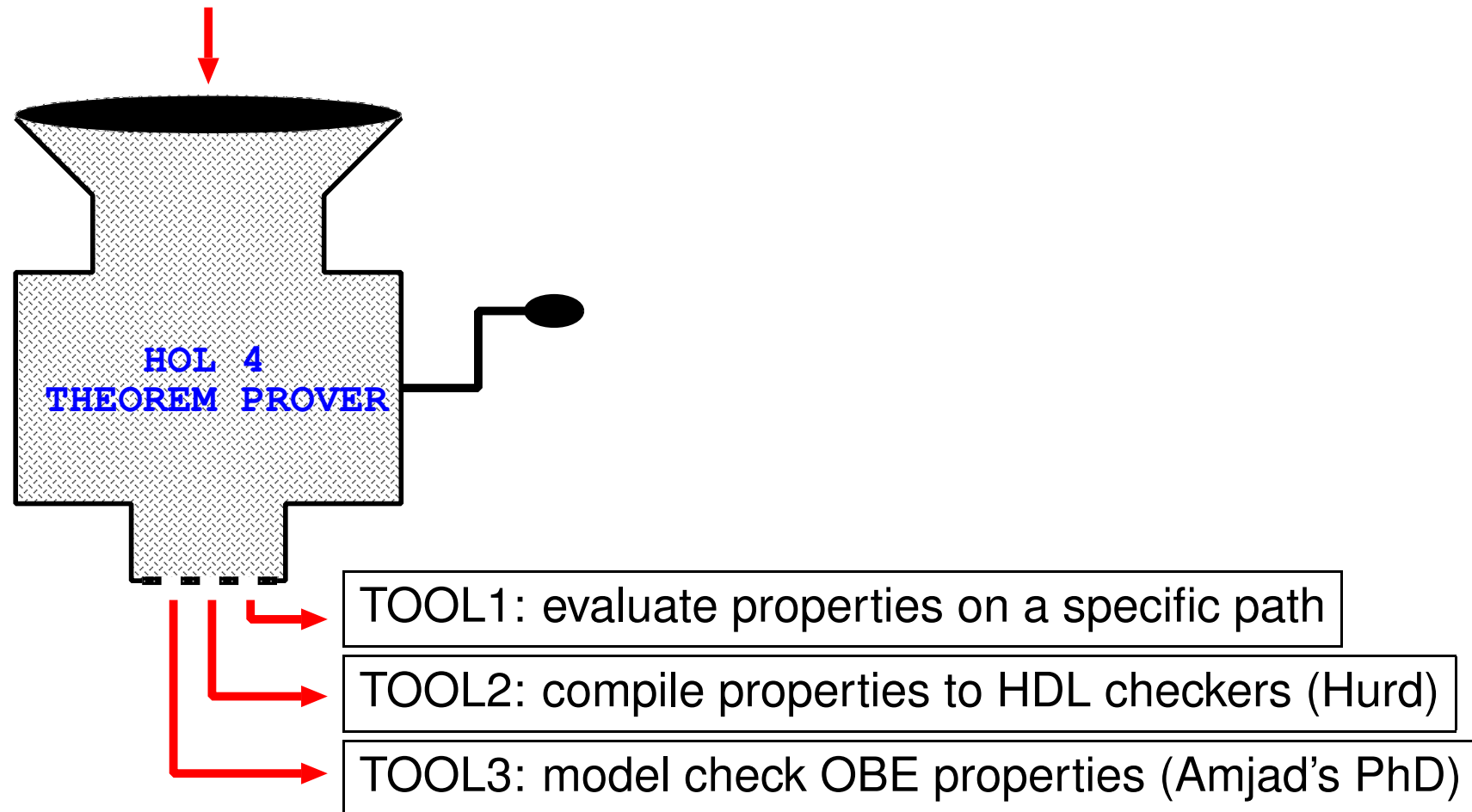
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$$\begin{aligned} \vdash s_0 s_1 s_2 s_3 s_4 \models [b_1 U b_2] &= \\ s_0 \models b_2 \vee & \\ s_0 \models b_1 \wedge (s_1 \models b_2 \vee s_1 \models b_1 \wedge & \\ (s_2 \models b_2 \vee s_2 \models b_1 \wedge (s_3 \models b_2 \vee s_3 \models b_1 \wedge s_4 \models b_2))) & \end{aligned}$$

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- ▶ Make executable by proving

$$\vdash \forall w r. w \models r = \text{Match } r w$$

where:

- **Match** is an executable matcher for regular expressions

Example formula with regular expression: $\{r\}(f)$ (Hurd)

- Called “suffix implication”, semantics is:

$$w \models \{r\}(f) = \forall j \in [0 .. |w|). w^{0,j} \models r \Rightarrow w^j \models f$$

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- ▶ Define an efficient executable function `Check` so that, for example:

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- ▶ Rewrite with this, then execute

Example illustrating TOOL1

- ▶ PSL Reference Manual Example 2, page 45

time	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
clk1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
a	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
b	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
c	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
clk2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1

- ▶ Define w to be this path, so w is:
 $\{c, clk2\}\{clk1\}\{\}\{clk1, a, clk2\}\{a\}\{clk1, a, b, c\}\{c, clk2\}\{clk1, b\}\{b\}\{clk1, clk2\}$
- ▶ Can evaluate in SML, or via a command line wrapper
- ▶ Example: to evaluate $(c \ \&\& \ next!(a \ until \ b))@clk1$ at all times in w :

```
% pslcheck -all \
  -fl '(c && next!(a until b))@clk1' \
  -path '{c,clk2}{clk1}{\}\{clk1,a,clk2}\{a}\{clk1,a,b,c}\{c,clk2}\{clk1,b}\{b}\{clk1,clk2}'
> > true at times 4,5,10
```

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- ▶ Checking one has the right property before using it in verification
- ▶ Post simulation analysis (path is generated by simulator)
 - compare with “TransEDA VN-Property” property checker and analyzer
 - our tools much slower – but not necessary too slow!
 - guaranteed PSL compliant by construction: golden reference

Tools use standard algorithms

- ▶ TOOL1: semantic calculator
- ▶ TOOL2: checker compiler (Hurd)
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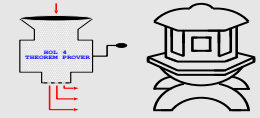
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- ▶ No new algorithms, but maybe a new kind of logic programming

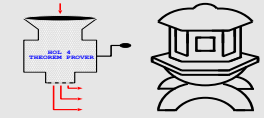
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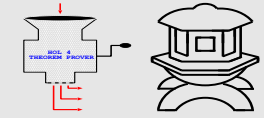
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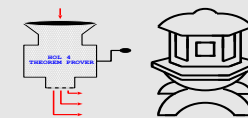
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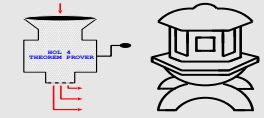
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Future research idea: generating ESL design tools

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- ▶ Generate bespoke verifier for XXX processor?
 - input processor specification
 - generate analysis tools for XXX-based ESL platform
 - not performance critical, so implementation by deduction plausible

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 - sell bespoke proof scripts to validate tweaks

Quote from the web – Proof IP?

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

XXXX: Conquers Toughest Verification Challenges with 100% Formal Proof



XXXX Pre-Built Proof Kits are available for a long list of industry standard interfaces. Pre-Built Proof Kits contain all the necessary spec-level requirements to prove interface compliance, delivering immediate benefits to users.



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 - need a convincing “value proposition” and “ROI” story

THE END