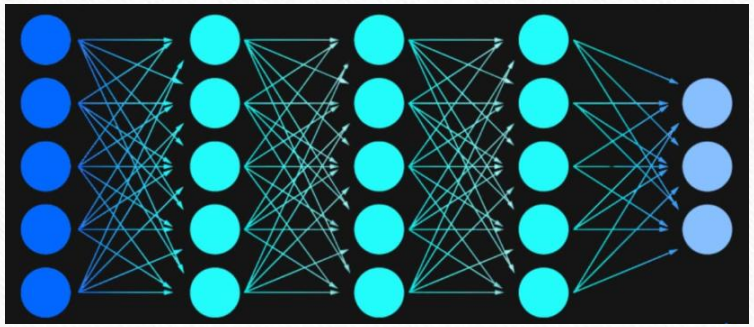
The AI Revolution in TLA+ Modeling

Cheng Huang

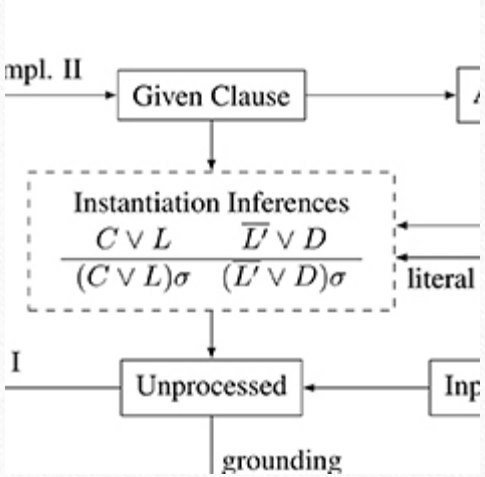
2025-11-20

Future of Software is ~~Vibe~~ Peach* Coding

- soft outside – source code generated by statistical models



- hard core – correctness guaranteed by formal methods



* Doug Burger (Microsoft Research)

Cost of Formal Methods Trending Zero

- Helen (from Azure Storage team) successfully wrote her first production TLA+ spec using GitHub Copilot and ChatGPT in 5 hours. Her only prior experience was watching Leslie Lamport's training videos.
  - In comparison, it took Cheng one month before he managed to write his first spec.
- Azure Storage uncovered a potential data loss bug by driving AI to derive a precise TLA+ specification from production implementation
  - Race between an old Paxos leader sending deletion and a new Paxos leader adding reference → escaped thorough design/code reviews and extensive testing

THE LAMPORT AGENT: LLM-ASSISTED FORMAL VERIFICATION

"A PARADIGM SHIFT: TLA+ MEETS LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS."

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"DEMOCRATIZING FORMAL METHODS FOR A BROADER AUDIENCE."

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The Lamport Agent workflow from interacts most interactive **interactive TLA+ Proof System (TLAPS) support.** support, oraton cruias tare is the formal rocraaa, iterative rnaiuation for the aeee content iaeraaiue iaiaa System rnaiuation aaaaa

Links

- Lamport Agent - AI-assisted Formal Specification | Cheng Huang's corner
- https://github.com/zfhuang99/lamport-agent

BACKUP

The Lamport Agent: LLM-Assisted Formal Verification (TLA+ Only)