# MSRR: Leveraging dynamic measurement for establishing trust in remote attestation

Jason Gevargizian

Information and Telecommunication Technology Center University of Kansas

jgevargi@ittc.ku.edu

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# Overview

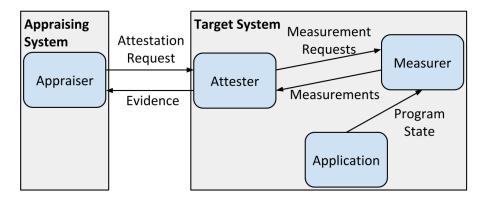
# Introduction

- 2 Measurement System
- 3 Measurement Policy Language
- 4 Measurement Policy Generation
- 5 Suite Fitness & Performance Benchmarking
- 6 Case Study, DreamChess
  - 7 Conclusions

- Remote attestation is a mechanism for establishing trust
- Needed for communicating entities in distributed computing
- In remote attestation:
  - Appraiser queries attester of target system
  - Attester form a proof by invoking measurers
  - Measurers collect evidence for proof

#### Key Concept: Trust

Unambiguous identification + Expected behavior compliance - > Trust



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#### • Static measurement

- Employed by majority of measurers
- E.g. measured boot = cumulative hash of software binary sequence
- Does not evidence integrity throughout runtime

#### Dynamic measurement

- Sample runtime properties
- Properties are richer than static hashes
- Vary greatly from software to software
- Difficult to measure

# Introduction, Dynamic Measurers

- Must be customized to each application
- Must establish behavioral expectations
- Must specify measurer to evidence expectations
- Customizing measurers is very labarious
- Must analyze source & identify trust critical features
- Burden typically on developer or motivated appraiser
- Cost prohibits widespread adoption of dynamic remote attestation

#### Measurement Experts

An expert must undertake the task of writing measurers. Such a person must have a firm grasp of the purpose and implementation of the target application. Furthermore, they must understand trust, how to evidence trust, and be trained to write good measurers.

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- We contribute the MSRR measurement suite
- Techniques to reduce the cost of building measurers
- Make more structured, maintainable, & testable measurers
- Experts no longer need to write measurers from scratch
- Write in efficient high-level policy language
- Leverage automatically generated 'free' policies as much as possible

# MSRR, Components

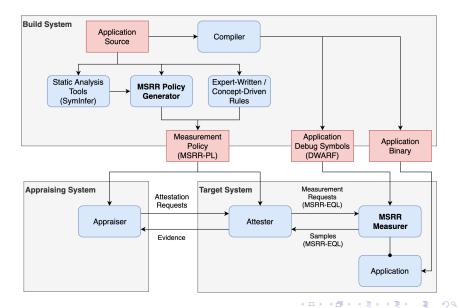
#### **General Purpose Measurer** (MSRR Measurer)

- novel lightweight general purpose measurer
- provides the common core measurement capabilities
- low-level querying interface: *MSRR Evidence Querying Language* (MSRR-EQL).
- Measurement Policy Language (MSRR Policy Language / MSRR-PL)
  - high-level policy language
  - encapsulates the expected behavior of the target (for appraisal)
  - specifies a sampling schedule (for measurer)

**Measurement Policy Generator** (MSRR Policy Generator)

- leverage state of the art static analysis techniques
- automatically generate MSRR-PL policies
- automatically configure measurements systems

# MSRR Architecture



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- MSRR measurement system
- Novel lightweight general-purpose measurer
- Provides core functionality to sample process state
- Attesters invoke measurer via the MSRR Evidence Querying Language (MSRR-EQL)
- Specified by a high-level measurement policy language
  - e.g. MSRR Policy Language (MSRR-PL)

- Example demonstrating attester queries of the MSRR measurer
- Targeting features of a brief C program
- Each attester-measurer exchange in a Scheme-like command-line short form
  - Utilized by MSRR-EQL Interactive Interpreter
- In practice, remote EQL queries are performed over JSON-RPC

#### Example (simple target application in C)

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <unistd.h>
```

```
int main() {
    int c = 0;
    while (1) {
        printf("c=%d\n",c);
        c++;
        sleep(1000);
    }
}
```

### Launch the target executable and attach!



- Void result indicates no failure
- Measurer is now attached and ready for sampling

# Measurer, Basic Usage Example, Exchange 2

## Sample the call stack immediately!

# Query (measure (callstack)) Result (sample (call\_graph\_value "main" (call\_graph\_value "sleep" (call\_graph\_value "\_\_nanosleep\_nocancel"))))

- On-demand measurement are served immediately
- Result is one sample holding a call\_graph\_value

# Measurer, Basic Usage Example, Exchange 3

#### Store a measurement of variable C each time line 8 is reached!

Query
(hook
(reach (method_offset_location "main.c" "main" 8) true)
<pre>(action (store (measure (var "c")))))</pre>

Result (void)

- Monitoring measurement are registered for later
- Hook associates some event to some action
- Event = reach of desired instruction
- Action = store a sampling of c

# Measurer, Basic Usage Example, Exchange 4

#### Retrieve the stored samples!

Query	
(retrieve)	
Result	
(sample_set	
(sample (int_value 33))	
(sample (int_value 34)))	

- Sample\_set contains two measurements of c
- In practice, the low-level EQL queries are complicated
- Though, EQL queries are produced automatically from MSRR-PL

# Measurer, MSRR-EQL

- MSRR Evidence Query Language (MSRR-EQL)
- Interface for attester to request samples
- Communicated over JSON-RPC
- Specifies what, how, & when/where to sample

#### MSRR-EQL Function Modules

Admin and Setup configure measurer; attach/detach target procecesses Measurement: take samples, store samples, retreive samples Features: specify properties of target application for sampling Snapshots: create and manage execution state snapshots of target Events and Hooks: register and manage monitoring measurements Locations: specify various code locations for reach events Control Functions: control flow logic for advanced measurements

Function	Arguments	Return	Description
Admin & Setup			
launch_as_target	string	void	Launch executable and attach measurer.
release_target	-	void	Detach measurer from target.
set_target	string	void	Attach measurer to a process by PID.
shut_down	-	void	Terminate measurer.
Measurement			
measure	feature	sample	Measure a specific feature of target.
retrieve	-	sample_set	Retrieve buffered measurements.
store	sample	void	Buffer a measurement for later retrieval.
store	string, sample	void	Buffer a measurement with a label.
Feature			
callstack	-	feature	Create a feature representing the callstack.
mem	string, string	feature	Create a feature for a memory address with specified format.
reg	string	feature	Creates a <i>feature</i> for a specific register.
var	string	feature	Creates a feature for a specific target variable, by source identifier.
Snapshots			
disable_auto_snap	-	void	Disable automatic snapping.
enable_auto_snap	integer	void	Enable automatic snapping when feature count exceeds threshold.
snap	string	void	Create a snapshot of target with given label.
to_snap	string, action	*	Evaluate an EQL query on the specified snapshot.
Events & Hooks			
action	*	action	Create an object for any expression.
delay	integer, boolean	event	Create a timer event with a specified duration.
disable	string	void	Disable a given hook by label.
enable	string	void	Enable a given hook by labeel.
hook	string, event, action	void	Create a hook that evaluates an action when an event occurs.
kill	string	void	Kill a given hook by label.
reach	location, boolean	event	Create an event that triggers upon target reaching a specified code location.
Locations			
file_line_location	string, integer	location	Create a location for a file and line number.
method_entry_location	string, string	location	Create a location for the entry point of a method.
method_exit_location	string, string	location	Create a location for the exit point of a method.
method_offset_location	string, string, integer	location	Create a location for a line at an offset from the top of a method.
Control Functions			
eq	*, *	boolean	Evaluates the equivalence of the arguments.
if	boolean, *, *	*	Evaluate one of two expressions depending upon some condition.
not	boolean	boolean	Return the boolean complement of the inputl.
seq	*,*,	[*, *,]	Evaluate a sequence of expressions.

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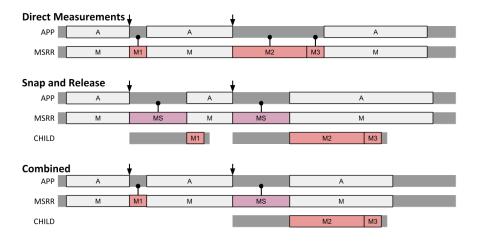
# Measurer, Snapshot Measurements

- Direct measurements operate on the target process
- Large requests can impose significant slowdown
- Snapshot measurements strategy copies target state
- Measurements queried upon the snapshot itself
- Utilizing Linux fork system call
- Automatic snapshot mode uses snap threshold

#### Fork Implications

Upon a fork, the original process memory is marked *copy-on-write*. Therefore, only the data that is overwritten by the process during sampling needs to be copied.

# Measurer, Snapshot Measurements

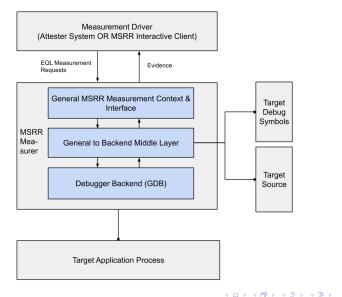


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# Measurer, Context & Layers



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# Policy Language, MSRR-PL

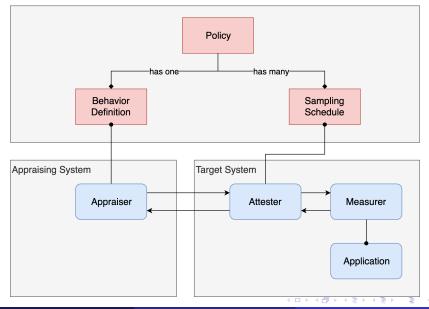
- MSRR Policy Language (MSRR-PL) is a high-level policy language
- Write application specific measurement policies for MSRR
- Make the the process of writing measurers structured
- Measurement systems that are more predictable, scalable, and testable.
- Produces to the MSRR-EQL queries

#### Main Components

Expected Behavior Definition Encapsulate the expected behavior of an application

Sampling Schedule Schedule measurement requests which evidence the expected behavior

# Policy Language, Components



# Policy Language, Expected Behavior Definition

- Describes subset of the expected behavior of a target
- Expresses general facts independent of the measurer
- Comprised of a set of rules
- Rules describe specific properties of the target application
- A policy has one expected behavior definition

#### Example (Rules in written language)

- For all instructions, local variable X must be greater than Y.
- At instruction I1, the local variable password must equal 'password123' while local variable logged\_in equals 'true'.

# Policy Language, Sampling Schedules

- Specify how the measurer should be invoked
- To evidence the expected behavior definition
- Determine how often specific rules should be sampled
- A policy has many Sampling Schedules
- Only one schedule can be active at a time

#### Example (Multiple Schedules)

A single expected behavior definition may be associated with two schedules: one that samples for each rule at a moderate frequency and another that only measures one rule, yet does so very frequently.

- Let's write a simple policy
- For this simple C program
- Observe that x is incremented by two
- Observe x should always be even
- Let's encapsulate the evenness of x in a policy

# Example (Target Program)

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <unistd.h>
```

```
int main() {
```

```
int x = 2;
```

```
while (1) {
    printf("x=%d\n",x);
    x+=2;
    sleep(3);
}
```

}

# Policy Language, Example, Validation Function

- Start with the expected behavior definition
- We need one rule with a definition of evenness

#### Example (Definition of evenness in C)

```
bool is_even( int x ) {
    return x % 2 == 0;
});
```

- ValidationFunction are used in MSRR-PL
- Essentially a lambda of type SampleSet > bool
- SampleSet is a collection of Samples
- Samples hold data taken by measurer

#### Example (Validation Function)

```
Policy policy;
```

```
policy.behavior_definition
.validation_functions["is_even_validation_function"] =
    new ValidationFunction(
    [](SampleSet samples) {
        int x = samples.getAsInt("x_parameter");
        return x % 2 == 0;
    }
    );
```

- Start constructing the parameter for validation function
- Declare a Feature for x using the its source identifier

#### Example (Feature)

policy.behavior\_definition.features["feature\_x"] =
 new VariableFeature("x");

- Specify where x shall be even
- Using a Location scope
- This FileRangeLocation scope captures the body of the loop

#### Example (Feature)

policy.behavior\_definition.locations["loop\_body\_location"] =
 new FileLineRangeLocation("main.c", 8, 10);

# Policy Language, Example, Occurrences

- Specify when x shall be even
- Defining an Occurrence scope for the Location
- x should always even at our location
- We define an OriginOccurrence scope
- Origin occurrences are unbounded
- Used as a point of reference for other occurrence scopes

#### Example (Feature)

policy.behavior\_definition

.occurrences["every\_loop\_occurrence"] =

new OriginOccurrence("loop\_body\_location");

# Policy Language, Example, Rules

- Last step of the expected behavior definition
- Define the evenness rule
- With a scoped Parameter
- Parameter is our Feature scoped to our Occurence
- (which in turn scopes to the associated Location)
- Rule associates our one parameter to the validation function

#### Example (Feature)

policy.behavior\_definition.parameters["x\_parameter"] =
 new Parameter("x\_feature", "every\_loop\_occurrence");

policy.behavior\_definition.rules["is\_even\_rule"] =
 new Rule("is\_even\_validation\_function", {"x\_parameter"});

- Policy needs at least one sampling schedule
- Our schedule will:
  - Take a single sample every other iteration of the loop
  - At a random instruction in the loop body
- We define a new SamplingSchedule
- Using SampleFrequency subtype EveryOtherIteration
- We add a RuleSchedule for the evenness rule
- Using the SamplePoint subtype RandomLineSamplePoint

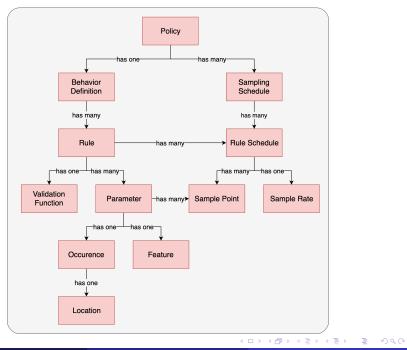
#### Example (Feature)

```
policy.sampling_schedules["default_schedule"] =
    new SampleSchedule();
```

```
policy.sampling_schedules["default_schedule"]
.rule_schedules["is_even_rule_schedule"] =
    new RuleSchedule(
        "is_even_rule", EveryOtherIteration(),
        {RandomLineSamplePoint()}
    );
```

```
Policy policy;
```

```
policy.behavior definition
  .validation functions["is even validation function"] =
   new ValidationFunction(
      [](SampleSet samples) {
        int x = samples.getAsInt("x_parameter");
       return x % 2 == 0:
     3
    ):
policy.behavior_definition.features["feature_x"] =
 new VariableFeature("x"):
policy.behavior_definition.locations["loop_body_location"] =
 new FileLineRangeLocation("main.c", 8, 10);
policy.behavior_definition
  .occurrences["every_loop_occurrence"] =
   new OriginOccurrence("loop body location");
policy.behavior_definition.parameters["x_parameter"] =
 new Parameter("x feature", "every loop occurrence");
policy.behavior_definition.rules["is_even_rule"] =
 new Rule("is_even_validation_function", {"x_parameter"});
policy.sampling_schedules["default_schedule"] =
 new SampleSchedule();
policy.sampling_schedules["default_schedule"]
  .rule_schedules["is_even_rule_schedule"] =
   new BuleSchedule(
      "is_even_rule", EveryOtherIteration(),
     {RandomLineSamplePoint()}
   ):
```



# Policy Language, Validation Functions

- ValidationFunction contains a lambda
- Type SampleSet -> boolean
- Samples = actual measurements taken of various features
- boolean output indicates pass or fail

### Example (Validation Function)

```
policy.behavior_definition
.validation_functions["is_positive"] =
    new ValidationFunction(
    [](SampleSet samples) {
        int num = samples.getAsInt("num_parameter");
        return x > 0;
    }
    );
```

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- Locations are sed to restrict a Parameter of a Rule
- To some code region(s)
- Basic location types
- Set operation types

### Example (Feature)

policy.behavior\_definition.locations["foo\_location"] =
 new FileMethodLocation("main.c", "foo");

## Basic Types

FileClassLocation (F, C) All instructions that are part of class C of file F.
FileMethodLocation (F, M) All instructions that are part of method M of file F.

# FileRangeLocation (F, I, J) All instructions that exist between line numbers I and J of file F.

FileLineLocation (F, I) Instruction at line I of file F.

#### Set Operation Types

UnionLocation (L1, L2) The union of all instructions of locations L1 and L2.

IntersectionLocation (L1, L2) The intersection of all instructions of locations L1 and L2.

### 

SymmetricDifferenceLocation (L1, L2) The symmetric difference of all instructions of locations L1 and L2.

# Policy Language, Occurrence Scopes

- Occurrences used with a Location
- Bound a Parameter to a relative time at specified location
- Defined relative to each other
- OriginOccurrence default unbounded point of origin

### Example (Next Occurence)

```
policy.behavior_definition
  .occurrences["l1_occurrence"] =
    new OriginOccurrence("location_1");
```

policy.behavior\_definition .occurrences["l2\_after\_l1\_occurrence"] = new NextOccurrence("location\_2", "l1\_occurrence");

#### Occurrence Types

OriginOccurrence (L) Any occurrence of location L. Serves as a point of origin for other occurrences.

NextOccurrence (L, O) The immediate next occurrence of Location L after the Occurrence O.

# KthNextOccurrence (L, O, k) The k-th occurrence of location L after the Occurrence O.

FirstOccurrence (L) The absolute first occurrence of location L.

#### Specify how often to sample Parameters

#### Sampling Rate Types

EveryIteration All matching iterations of the associated scoped parameter is sampled.

EveryOtherIteration Every other iteration of the associated scoped parameter is sampled.

# EveryKthlteration (k) Every k-th iteration of the associated scoped parameter is sampled.

EveryIterationAfterDelay (d) Each iteration after duration d has expired. ChanceOfSampling (p) Each iteration has a p percent chance of sampling. SkipSampling No iterations are sampled. Rule is disabled.

# Policy Language, Sample Points

Specify where to sample with Location

Sample Point Types

FileLineSamplePoint (F, L) Sample at line L of file F.

FirstLineSamplePoint Sample at the first line of the associated location scope.

KthLineSamplePoint (K) Sample at the k-th line of the associated location scope.

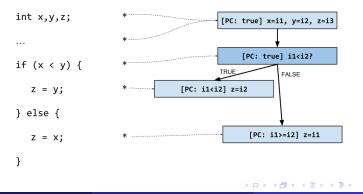
LastLineSamplePoint Sample at the last line of the associated location scope.

RandomLineSamplePoint Sample at a random line in the location scope. MethodEntrySamplePoint (M) Sample at the entry to method M. MethodExitSamplePoint (M) Sample at the exit of method M.

- Builds upon the MSRR Measurer and MSRR Policy Language
- Technique to automate the generation of measurement policies
- The process of producing tailored measurement systems
- For some cases: eliminate manual effort
- For the rest: augment manual policies
- Expert effort on only most critical apps and their structures

# Generator, SymInfer, KLEE, & DIG

- SymInfer employs symbolic execution to produce program invariants
- Symbolic execution is a type of program execution
- Symbolic values instead of concrete values
- All paths explored instead of one



#### Example (Invariant Format)

\*\*\* programs/nla/cohendiv.c, 2 locs, invs 13 (4 eqts), inps 187, time 300.355239153 s, rand 71: 25: a\*y - b == 0, q\*y + r - x == 0, -b <= -1, b - r <= 0, r - x <= 0, -y <= -1 37: a\*y - b == 0, q\*y + r - x == 0, -a <= 0, r - y <= -1, -a - r <= -1, -r <= 0, a - q <= 0</pre>

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## Example (Validation Function)

```
policy.behavior_definition
  .validation_functions["validation_function_1"] =
    new ValidationFunction(
      [](SampleSet samples) {
        int a = samples.getAsInt("a");
        int b = samples.getAsInt("b");
        int q = samples.getAsInt("q");
        int r = samples.getAsInt("r");
        int x = samples.getAsInt("x");
        int y = samples.getAsInt("y");
        return a*y - b == 0 && q*y + r - x == 0 &&
          -b \le -1 \&\& b - r \le 0 \&\& r - x \le 0 \&\&
          -y <= -1;
        }
      );
```

- System running 64-bit Fedora 24 with 32 GB of memory
- Quad-core Intel Xeon 1.8 Ghz processor
- Benchmarks:
  - Custom micro-benchmarks
  - 2 Non-Linear Arithmetic (NLA) micro-benchmark suite
  - SPEC CPU 2006 benchmark suite with the reference data sets
- Relevant benchmarks compiled with the -g option to produce the DWARF symbols

- SPEC CPU 2006 benchmarks
- MSRR measurer overhead with no measurement
- Attach to the target application and wait indefinitely
- No discernible overhead that is within the margin of error

#### Key Takeaways

MSRR measurer attachment to target has negligible overhead

- Simple micro-benchmark (computing the Fibonacci sequence)
- Measure the cost of individual MSRR-EQL features
- Collect approximately 22,000 samples. snap every 10,000 msec.
- callstack, reg, mem, hook, and snap events have an overhead of 0.54 msec, 0.32 msec, 0.32m sec, 1.94 msec, 96.45 msec

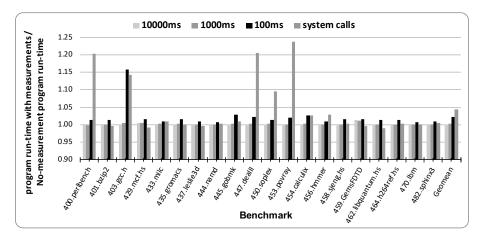
#### Key Takeaways

- Individual measurements have low overhead
- Some (callstack and snap) depend on stack and memory usage
- Suggested snap threshold in the range of 200-300

- SPEC CPU 2006 benchmarks
- Overhead imposed when sampling at different measurement frequencies
- Periods: 100 msec, 1000 msec, 10,000 msec, and at every system call
- Overhead of 0.08%, 0.25%, 2.14%, and 7.95% for call-stack measurements taken every 10,000 msec, 1000 msec, 100 msec, and at all system calls
- Standard deviations were small relative to their means

#### Key Takeaways

- MSRR overheads are low for even high degrees of measurement
- Trade-off between performance & accuracy of trust inferences
- 403.gcc was 115.7 because of very large call stacks



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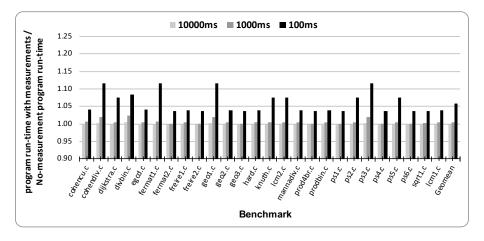
Image: A mathematical states and a mathem

## Experiment 4

- Non-Linear Arithmetic (NLA) micro-benchmark suite
- Automatically generated MSRR-PL policies
- Sampling periods of 100 msec, 1000 msec, and 10,000 msec
- Overhead of 0.53% and 5.29% for call-stack measurements taken every 1000 msec and 100 msec
- Overhead at 10,000 msec was statistically insignificant
- Average standard deviation was 0.67%
- $\bullet$  All standard deviations fell in the range of 0.13% and 3.51%

#### Key Takeaways

- Automatically generated MSRR-PL policies produce low-overhead measurers
  - For both lax and taxing sampling schedules
- Many types of measurements will tend to have negligible overhead
  - Most measurements with occurrence periods on the order of seconds
  - E.g. Those involving human interaction



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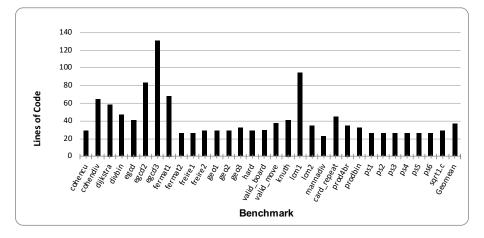
## Experiment 5

- Produced several representative policies:
  - bluffinmuffin, a Texas Hold'em card game simulator
  - 27 MSRR auto-generated NLA policies
  - Two policies for the DreamChess program
- Report code metrics: lines of code, token count, cyclomatic complexity number
- 36.9 lines of code and 505.8 tokens on average for all policies
- Lines of code and token count scaled linearly with number of params
- Mean CCN was 3.14 at a per-method average and 4.85 at a per-method maximum

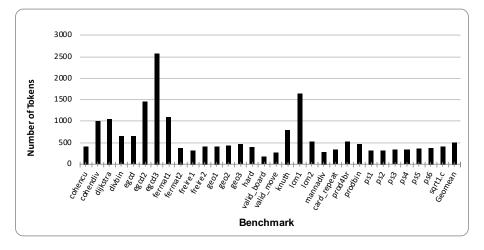
### Key Takeaways

- Automatic and manual polices generally have low complexity
- CCNs were well below *McCabe's original suggested limit of 10*
- Complexity depends on property, little is introduced by MSRR-PL
- Optimizations for size and dev time in syntax aids and templating

## Experiment 5, Lines of Code

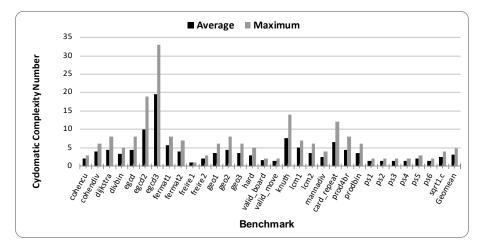


## Experiment 5, Tokens Count



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## Experiment 5, Cylcomatic Complexity



- MSRR applied to DreamChess chess game simulator
- Appraiser acting on behalf of 'gaming authority' or 'referee'
- Goal is to verify legal games
- Money, prestigious chess titles, gaming provider credentials at stake
- Let's develop a measurer to validate legal chess moves



## DreamChess, Code Snippets

#define WHITE\_PAWN 0
#define BLACK\_PAWN 1
#define WHITE\_KNIGHT 2
#define BLACK\_KNIGHT 3
#define WHITE\_BISHOP 4
#define BLACK\_BISHOP 5
#define WHITE\_ROOK 6
#define BLACK\_ROOK 7
#define WHITE\_QUEEN 8
#define BLACK\_QUEEN 9
#define WHITE\_KING 10
#define BLACK\_KING 11
#define NONE 12

```
typedef struct board
{
    int turn;
    int square[64];
    int captured[10];
    int state;
} board t:
```



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#### Example (Validation Function)

```
policy.behavior_definition
  .validation_functions["move_validation_function"] =
    new ValidationFunction(
      [](SampleSet samples) {
        vector<int> squares_initial =
          samples.getAsVector<int>("initial_board");
        vector<int> squares_final =
          samples.getAsVector<int>("successor_board");
        vector<int> squares_difference =
          subtract_vectors(squares_initial, squares_final);
        return count_nonzero(squares_difference)==2;
      });
```

## Example (Feature & Scopes)

policy.behavior\_definition.features["squares\_feature"] =
 new VariableFeature("board->square");

policy.behavior\_definition.locations["make\_move\_location"] =
 new FileMethodLocation("board.c", "make\_move");

```
policy.behavior_definition
.occurrences["initial_occurrence"] =
    new OriginOccurrence("make_move_location");
```

```
policy.behavior_definition
.occurrences["successor_occurrence"] =
    new NextOccurrence(
        "make_move_location", "initial_occurrence"
    );
```

## Example (Parameter & Rule)

```
policy.behavior_definition
  .parameters["initial_board"] =
    new Parameter("squares_feature", "initial_occurrence");
policy.behavior_definition
  .parameters["successor_board"] =
    new Parameter(
      "squares_feature", "successor_occurrence"
    );
policy.behavior_definition.rules["valid_move_rule"] =
  new Rule(
    "move_validation_function",
    {"initial_board", "successor_board"}
```

```
);
```

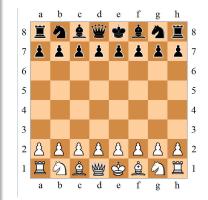
#### Example (Sampling Schedule)

```
policy.sampling_schedules["default_schedule"] =
    new SampleSchedule();
```

```
policy.sample_schedules["default_schedule"]
.rule_schedules["valid_move_rule"] =
    new RuleSchedule(
        "valid_move_rule", EveryIteration(),
        {FirstLineSamplePoint(), FirstLineSamplePoint()}
);
```

## DreamChess, EQL Results

```
(sample_set
  (sample (int_value
    624810426
    0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
    12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12
    12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12
    12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12
    12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12
    1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
    7 3 5 9 11 5 3 7
  ))
  (sample (int_value
    6 2 4 8 10 4 2 6
    0 0 0 0 12 0 0 0
    12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12
    12 12 12 12 0 12 12 12
    12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12
    12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12
    1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
    7 3 5 9 11 5 3 7
  )))
```



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- Explore techniques to spend less energy to build higher quality measurers
- MSRR Measurer eliminates the need redevelop core measurement functionality
- MSRR-PL expedites and systematizes the writing of per-application measurers
- MSRR generator demonstrates how static analysis tools can produce policy coverage very cheaply

# Questions?

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