

Grad Skit 2008

Parts:

Cameraman: Boris

Arnold: Kai

Reaper: Elizabeth Bales

Movie Guy Voice/Narrator: John McCool

Clever Guy #1: Nathan Goulding

Stefan: Ross

Joe the Plumber: Roy

Russell: Zach

Student with $P=NP$ proof: Laura

Bob #1: Vrable

Bob #2: Ravi

Audience member: (someone from audience)

Geoff: Justin

Voting Machine Guy: Mike Stepp

Buzzer: Jan

KEITH: James

Mini-me Arnold: Kaisen

Advertising (awesome job guys)

Viral marketing campaign the day/week before, with photos of Ahnold or misc. posters from Ahnold movies.

Possible titles:

"Dear research budget: Get Down!"

"I Want YOU"

"I want to send all frivolous research to the choppa!"

"This is not a recall; this is a total recall!"

Outline

- Introduction
 - Voting Machines
 - $O(1)$ Funding
 - Making fun of Ranjit
 - 3rd Floor Toilet Problem
 - Geoff Voelker
 - Bot(sky)net.
 - P vs NP
 - Teleduplication
 - ChezBob (Finale)
 - Out-troduction: Play T2 theme song with credits
-

The Skits

Introduction

Narrator: In a world where the greedy thought they could get exponential profits [BUBBLE SLIDE]

Narrator: The State of California finds itself in disarray [AUCTION SLIDE]

Narrator: In the face of massive budget cuts, one department is looking for answers [BEAR PHOTO]

Random Guy: Hey Keith! When are you going to fund my project?

Keith: [To Audience] When money is so short, it is hard to decide the fate of research. Maybe I can call on my old friends for advice.

Narrator: Now, it's up to one man [ARNOLD PHOTO] to balance the budget [TARGET PIGGY BANK]

Narrator: ...Before disaster strikes [EXPLOSION]

(Hours Later)

Arnold Enters with Keith on Stage, Camera stands between two chairs.

Keith: Welcome Governor Schwarzenegger, I'm so glad you could personally come to help us with our budgeting problems.

Arnold: Keith!! You son of a gun!

(they shake hands, which turns into arm wrestling in the air ~5 seconds)

[show the slide from predator]

Arnold: What? CSE got you pushing too many pencils???

[They laugh]

Arnold: I'M GLAD TO BE HERE. WHAT IS THIS COOL LOOKING ROBOT?

Keith: Oh, that's a research installation. If you speak to it it will look at you. "Hey! Over Here!"

[Camera looks at Keith]

Keith: Well, next I thought we could have the researchers pitch their ideas to you. Since we only have enough money for one, you can go ahead and pick one when you see something you like. Why don't you take a seat while I get the researchers.

[Keith Exits, while Arnold Sits in One Chair]

Arnold (to Camera): HELLO CAMERA

[Camera Looks at Arnold, pauses, then looks at other chair]

Arnold (to Camera): CAMERA! HELLO!

[Camera Looks at Arnold, pauses, then looks at other chair]

Arnold: OH, I GUESS I AM SUPPOSED TO SIT THERE

[Camera tracks Arnold as he changes chairs, but then looks at the empty chair]

[Death Enters]

DEATH: "Oh, hi, I thought I would come help. With the *END OF DAYS* so close, I was feeling restless."

Arnold: Stick around

Voting machines (Mike Stepp)

[Mike has most recent version]

As you know, voting machines play an important role in the American election process. Due to the recent controversies centered around the current design of voting machine systems, we believe there is much room for improvement. The potential for speed and accuracy when

using voting machines is too great to ignore, and so creating the perfect voting machine is indeed an important goal. As such, we have several proposals for new designs of the voting machine systems that will run our future elections:

1)

Our first proposal is for our new line of brain-scanning voting machines. These machines hook directly into the voter's brain and extract the name of the person that he or she wants to elect. The advantage of such a system is that it guarantees 100% accuracy in determining which candidate the voter intended. There is no risk of accidentally pressing the wrong button, and the hanging chad is a thing of the past.

Unfortunately, this system does introduce a new opportunity for voter fraud. It turns out that the average American voter's brain is no more developed than the brain of the average housecat. This opens the door for people to smuggle dogs and cats into their polling places and vote multiple times. This should be of special concern to you, Mr Governor, because the animal kingdom has a well-known liberal bias.

2)

The second proposal directly addresses the security flaws in the previous, and other, voting systems. A constant threat lies in the possibility of the voting machine's record being intercepted before the election can be tallied, or audited. If the voting machine fell into the wrong hands, even briefly, the record could potentially be changed to reflect a different outcome. Hence we have developed a voting machine that gets around this problem by maintaining absolutely no permanent record of the election whatsoever. As soon as the voter's ballot has been cast, it is purged from the system, thus eliminating any chance of changing the result at a later date. This ensures 100% security from voter fraud.

Unfortunately, it does make the auditing process somewhat more difficult, but we leave that as an avenue for future work.

3)

Our third proposal is intended to improve the speed and efficiency of the voting process. Following recent advances in quantum computing, we propose to develop the first quantum voting machine. Such a machine would be able to process billions of ballots per second, and would speed up the entire process considerably. The quantum voting machine is also ideal for undecided voters, because every ballot is stored within the machine in a quantum state of indeterminacy, and hence names every candidate at the same time.

Unfortunately, this approach has already drawn fire from critics who claim that the outcome of the election is changed by the simple act of measuring it, leading to a phenomenon known as a 'Heisenballot'. We claim that this is, in fact, a FEATURE of the system which is designed to appease the loser of the election, because it allows him the consolation of knowing that there is SOME universe in which he actually won.

4)

Our final proposal attacks the problem at its source. Elections are a logistical nightmare; the amount of work involved in setting up and holding an election is monumental. From registering the voters, to setting up thousands of polling places, to tallying the votes, the time and effort involved is just not worth it, since the purpose of the whole affair is basically to compute a ridiculously small amount of information. Indeed, any election is essentially asking a few simple multiple-choice questions, and so the outcome of such an election comprises merely a handful of bits' worth of data. Thus we propose to sidestep the entire voting process by building a voting machine capable of extracting those bits directly from their source: the future. Our new machine is designed to travel into the future and report back the results of the election, before the polls ever open. If we do this early enough in the election year, then none of the classical voting process will be necessary; no campaigning, no lobbying, none of the arduous and expensive election setup that has plagued us every four years throughout our nation's history. The amount of money that will be saved is astronomical!

The only downside of this new system is the tiny, minute, unlikely, potential risk of causing a temporal paradox which will unravel the fabric of the space-time continuum and destroy the universe as we know it. But we have calculated an 83% probability of the system working perfectly, so we think the risk is acceptable.

Plus, let's face it, we wouldn't be the United States of America if we didn't cause the entire rest of the world to fear their own destruction every time we had an election.
Thank you for your time.

O(1) Funding

Maybe just a one-liner: ask for O(1) funding

[Russell walks on stage (carrying a Diet Coke), Arnold has trouble pronouncing his name]

[SLIDE: blank]

Arnold: "Okay, looks like up next we have Russell ...Im ...Impag ...Impa-gliCrowe!

Russell Crowe. What is your project? By the way, you were great in Gladiator."

Russell (carrying a Diet Coke): "I wasn't in Gladiator."

Arnold: "A Beautiful Mind?"

Russell (ignoring him): "My project is to implement a maximum-value-minimum-cost-computing algorithm A, which will determine the amount of funding each project receives, such that the Theory professors earn the most money. I mean maximize the total value V. But the best part about my project is that it requires only big-oh(1) funding!"

Audience member: "Yes, but what is the constant!?"

Russell: "Well, in this case C is less-than-or-equal-to 700 million dollars"

Arnold: "Are you kidding!? That's more than I earned for Last Action Hero! Get him out of here."

[Russel leaves]

Making fun of Ranjit (Ravi)

Cast: Faculty guy (Jan)

Last year we had a faculty vs students trivia contest. We, the faculty, overcame some suspect judging to pull out the victory, but one of our members, the Honorable Ranjit Jhala, had some... overzealous buzzing-in issues.

He must have been having some kind of neurological reaction to the sonorous tones of the moderator, because as soon as he heard the first word of each question, he rushed to buzz in whether he knew the answer or not.

(* How about followed by:

This only worked half the time. In order to improve Ranjit's performance by a potential 2X, we'd like to get his exuberance more under control. (if it actually was close to half the time) *)

(* instead of:

To ensure that this year's contest is a landslide victory over the students, we'd like to get Ranjit's exuberance more under control. *)

To this end, we've come up with several proposals to augment the controller system to avoid premature buzzing in.

[Idea: \$\$\$ buzzer]

The first idea is a simple one: charge a fee for early buzzing. The monetary disincentive of attempting a question without knowing the answer is a good first choice.

[Idea: electric shock]

We're also considering adding a reactive system where the contestant would get a shock after each question answered incorrectly.

[Idea: ball and chain]

A simpler, tried-and-true approach is to attach a ball and chain to his leg and force him to sit at arm's length from the table. This would require significant effort on his part to reach out and get to the buzzer, which

would hopefully dissuade him from guessing promiscuously.

[Idea: submarine mode]

This next idea is inspired by submarine design, where two Navy officers must turn their keys before firing a torpedo. In this way, we could assign another faculty member to team up with Ranjit to monitor his buzzing in.

[Idea: Round Table]

Our final option is one that we hope not to resort to but is highly likely to be effective: surround the buzzers with a wall of Round Table pizza. His detestation for Round Table pizza is widely known, and rumor has it he has even withdrawn funding from a student who suggested ordering takeout from Round Table during a recent deadline push.

As you can see, we have many promising ideas for how to restrain Ranjit in the next trivia contest, but we need your funding to develop and test these prototypes to see which will be most effective.

Arnold: My sources tell me that your trivia contest did not even win best social hour. It's clearly not worth additional funding. Buzz off!

3rd floor toilet problems (Laura)

Joe (hands out toilet paper as he says): The project I'm here to tell you about today is vital to the productivity of any males who spend a significant amount of time on the third floor - researchers, Chez Bob visitors and the like.

Arnold: This isn't looking very researchy...

Joe returns to podium and presses on: As you can see from the handout, a couple of weeks ago the unit titled "Ankle Biter" experienced a buffer overflow which caused a broken pipe and resulted in a nasty core dump from "Old Faithful."

Someone shouts: Hey, isn't that Joe the plumber?!?

Arnold: Wait, you aren't from CA! Do you even work for the department!?

Joe: Well, no, but ...

Arnold: Alright, someone get him out of here!

(DEATH starts to drag joe away; he struggles and shouts desperately)

Joe: Do you even know what a core dump smells like!?! I need the money to make it to the next tax bracket!

Arnold: There is no bathroom! [last line is from kindergarten cop:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjXzXUuyAgI>]

Geoff Voelker on travel (Zach)

Message from Kirill:

Geoff at Olympics: A while back I made a photoshop'd photo of Geoff entitled "Phelps pwnd by unlikely Voelker" where Geoff gets 9 medals compared to Phelps' 8. Photo attached; feel free to use if it fits.



Narrator: Next we have Geoff Voelker presenting an interesting technique for obtaining free research.

Geoff: Thank you. I would like to present to the board a technique that will allow US researchers to extract free research ideas and results from around the world. Not only does my approach help achieve progress within the scientific community, but it can also foster international good will. At a high level, our new research system appears to inherit many of the properties traditionally associated with the venerable practice of sabattical. Let me

assure you that these are only surface similarities which should not distract you from the fundamental contribution you are witnessing here today.

***** NOTE : It is critical that Geoff pronounce each letter in O.L.Y.M.P.I.C.S. instead of pronouncing the word. *****

Basically, my approach involves travelling to carefully selected points all over the globe at very specific times in order to leverage what I predict to be O.L.Y.M.P.I.C.S. or Optimal Leveraging of Your Money to Pursue International Computer Science. Specifically, I am applying for funding to take full advantage of the next three O.L.Y.M.P.I.C.S.s. Because of the unpredictable but highly beneficial nature of these events, it is critical that we make every effort to fully capitalize on these opportunities. Specifically, my extremely subtle and enormously complex prediction algorithm has found the next three O.L.Y.M.P.I.C.S.s to be:

Winter 2010 Vancouver Canada

Summer 2012 London UK

Winter 2014 Sochi Russia

Arnold: Hey! Wait a second... aren't those the dates and locations of the next three Olympic games? Like swimming and skiing and stuff?

Geoff: ... ummmmm ... well ... you see O.L.Y.M.P.I.C.S. can be very interdisciplinary ... that is to say it ... uhhh ... yeah, those are the next three Olympics

Arnold: Get out of here!

Geoff: Well, it was worth a try.

Bot(sky)net (John McCool)

Clever Guy Numero Uno: Governor Schwarzenegger, in these **hard** times of fiscal **dysfunction**, it is important to consider new ways to **enhance** our research funding. We know you are an advocate of **men's health**. Well I propose a system for earning money by offering services directly related to men's health. You might be aware of the **Storm** botnet: it makes use of spare bandwidth and computing cycles to send enticing emails for health **supplements**.

Aahnold: You mean... spam?

Clever Guy #1: Well... yes. But, consider! With low initial investment to cover bullet-proof hosting, we can create our very **own** botnet! In our studies we found that even with a minimal conversion rate, we'd make enough money to **stimulate** computer science research **growth** for decades! It is time to clear away the **STORM** and make room for the **SKY** botNET!

Aahnold: I already get enough email sent to **talks** and **csepeople** every day! This seems doomed to fail.

CG#1: No! We know people would be much more trusting of an **American** pharmacy! And besides, the system is fully distributed. With our new debugging and model-checking techniques, the uptime will reach five or even **six** 9's of reliability. And, much like the Internet, it will be impervious to nuclear attack!

Aahnold: This is sounding too familiar. There have to be more downsides.

CG#1: Well, there is an off-chance probability ... **minuscule**, really, [START T2 MUSIC] ... that it will become... self-aware.

Aahnold: That is unacceptable. Funding request denied.

[STOP T2 MUSIC]

Defender of P != NP

[SLIDE: blank]

Student walks up to committee carrying large (many many pages) proof.

Student: "I have proved $P = NP$."

Arnold: Then your research is done. Why do you need funding?

Student: "I need protection."

Arnold: "Protection from what?"

Russell enters the stage.

Student yells in fear pointing: "Russell Impagliazzo!" then ducks and covers his head with the proof.

Russell walks up quietly and innocently, and snatches the proof from the student's hand and the student looks up.

Russell quickly flips through the proof then points and mumbles: "This implication doesn't hold."

Student screams in agony: "No! My thesis is foiled!!!"

Russell throws back the proof then walks off, mumbling (but loud enough for audience to hear): "No robots taking over MY world."

[Slide changes to show poster: "Russell Impagliazzo: Defender of $P \neq NP$ "]

Photographic key decoding (Kai and Boris)

Narrator: In a world full of savages, **one** Savage could have the **key** to Arnold's heart.

[Stefan walks in.]

[slide 1]

S: Hi Arnold, I'm Stefan Savage, you probably know me from Slashdot.

[slide 2]

A: Huh? I'm a cop you idiot, I only slash bad guys

S: ... umm, nevermind. I work in Security, which is basically a field that discovers novel ways to break into people's houses

[slide 3]

A: But how is this different than what criminals do?

S: Well..... the difference is, we publish our findings in slashdot!

[slide 4]

A: *grunt* you must be very proud of yourself...

S: Ok.. well let me describe our newest project to you. I've been working with people from the dental school and have learned something incredible! did you know every person is completely determined by the heights of their teeth? with just 10 numbers, known as the 'biting code', we have enough data to clone that person!

[slide 5]

<takes picture of arnold>

A: This reminds me of my super smash hit movie the 6th day, where me and my clone join forces because it turns out I'm really an angel. Then the CIA, they make a clone, but this one's a bad clone because it is in cahoots with the devil. So then me and my clones go to fight the devil clone, then it turns out that he's the real me and I'm the clone!... oh, i'm sorry, please continue.

S: We use a simple procedure to take the biting code and create an exact copy out of basic organic materials.

[slide 6]

S: Now, I'll just email the images to my lab, and your clone should be out in a couple seconds.

<Kaisen comes out with the mini arnold mask and says a couple lines without an arnold voice: "get back to the chopper!", "I'll be back!">

A: ARUURHGHH Thats a devil clone!! Kill him. Kill him noooooow. Do iiiit.

<clone runs away>

A: Aaah that's better. Now Mr. Savage, how exactly does this help you break into people's houses?

S: Oh... well... the clone would then break in through the window, and take all the valuables. The important part of this research, however, is to show people that they need to treat their teeth like their credit cards. They need to keep their mouths shut until they have to eat. This means no more smiling Mr. Governor. We need to raise awareness!

A: Mr. Savage, your clones are clearly low quality. This technology seems underdeveloped to deserve funding. However, I encourage you to keep working on this... perhaps one day, we can make a good clone of me, and he will be born in America, and could run for President. Then we can make a clone for every state, so that every state could have Governator like California.

[slide 7]

Finale: Chez Bob bailout (Michael Vrable and Ravi)

Sub-prime lending

Foreclosing/defaulting on student accounts

Stimulus package

Chez Bob gets the money even though it has no business plan (other than large bonuses to the executives)

Something about flying corporate jets to the meeting (<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/WallStreet/story?id=6285739>)

A: Arnold

1: Vrable

2: Ravi

A: So Mr. Vrable, where is this colleague of yours?

1: Mr. Governor, I'm sure he'll be here soon. He wouldn't miss this meeting. Perhaps he got delayed by the dense fog.

A: This is very unprofessional.

[2 stumbles in, having just been playing golf and drinking]

2: Hello, Michael. Hello, Governor. Sorry I'm late.

A: Ah there you are. What was the hold up?

2: You know, it was the darndest thing. My private jet had to take a detour through Hawaii because of the weather, and the pilot forgot to add enough fuel, so we had to...

A: Wait, private jet? Detour to Hawaii? I thought you lived in your office like all other grad students.

2: I do, but when Mr. Vrable told me about his private jet, I just...

A: You have a jet too?

1: Yes, I found a great deal on jet on eBay. From Alaska or something. And there was a 2-for-1 deal, so I referred [...].

A: Okay, enough about this. Let's get down to business. What is this meeting all about?

1: Chez Bob, and its wholly-owned subsidiary, the Bank of Bob, had several years of very profitable growth. Looking to further increase profitability, we branched out and started investing some of our assets. Real estate, Diet Coke futures, trans-fat swaps, securitized carbohydrates. Our experts ran computer models, and the PL people told us they were type-safe and that our investments could not possibly go wrong.

2: Well you systems people were supposed to deal with fault tolerance!

[slide with charts of stock market indexes and Chez Bob net worth, now drastically negative]

1: But anyway, with the freezing of the credit markets (not to mention the drinks in the refrigerator) and the recession, some of these investments have lost value... Even worse, many students consumed more than they could afford, and are now behind on their payments. Not to mention the faculty...

[slide of Wall of Shame, with faculty taking all the top spots]

2: Things are bad, Mr. Governor. Chez Bob has had to start foreclosing. We've started confiscating student lunches to cover debts. Cutting back on the free plastic forks and paper plates. We've even started rounding up free food from around the department and selling them as "Daily Specials". Yet problems continue to mount, and Chez Bob now requires a government bailout to remain solvent.

A: How much do you need?

1: \$25 billion should just about do it.

A: \$25 billion??? How can you need so much money for a student-run co-op?

[show slide with budget for private jets, lavish executive retreats and retirement plans; then, skip past this slide]

2: Well, Mr. Governor, as you see in our slides... Oops didn't mean to keep that one in there. Yes, so as you see, we are asking for \$25 billion so that we replenish our inventory, introduce new items to stimulate grad student spending, and begin to offer loans at low rates again.

A: But \$25 billion?

1: Well, Mr. Governor, if it would help, we could take \$20 billion today and then you can send the remaining \$5 billion next week.

2: Yeah that would be no problem at all.

A: That's not the point! Tell me, how much money do you need to get back in the black?

2: Well, it depends on a lot of factors: grad student spending, deadlines, the weather...

A: I understand that. But right now, how much outstanding debt is there?

1: Well, that depends on the time of day. For example, early in the morning, we typically sell low-cost drinks: teas, coffee. But later in the afternoon, when the midday lows start kicking in, expensive energy drinks start becoming popular so...

A: I understand, Mr. Vrable. Maybe I'm dense, I don't quite understand what the hell you just told me. Can you just tell me in absolute terms, how much money do you owe the students?

1: \$25000.

A: And how much would it cost to restock inventory?

2: \$15000.

A: So that's a total of only \$40000, so what is the rest of the \$25 billion for?

Reaper: You know, there is a delicious irony in seeing private luxury jets flying into San Diego, and people coming off of them with tin cups in their hands, saying that they're going to be trimming down and streamlining their businesses.

It's almost like seeing a guy show up at the soup kitchen in high hat and tuxedo. It kind of makes you a little bit suspicious.

Couldn't you all have downgraded to first class? Or at least jet-pooled together?

1: [To 2] Actually, that's a good idea.

2: Ooh, yeah. I'm planning on going to Ireland soon. We should make a trip together.

1: Yeah, that's a great idea. We should also visit Geoff in Vancouver or London...

A: Okay, gentleman. I've heard enough.

[1 and 2 get up]

2: Okay, I guess that didn't go very well.

1: Yeah, it doesn't look good. We may have to shut down after the last box of Lemon-Ohs goes.

A: Wait, what did you say? You guys have Lemon-Ohs.

2: Yeah, they're a top seller. Keeps a lot of the grad students going. But after we closed down...

A: Oh man, those are delicious! I love those! You know what, on second thought it seems like Chez Bob really is important to the department. This way I can just fund Chez Bob and it will support all these crazy projects I've heard today.

1: Great, thank you. You won't regret this decision.

A: Now get me some Lemon-Ohs.

[1 and 2 walking out]

A: Wait a minute, I don't see any official record of Chez Bob in the books...

[After everyone is gone]

Random girl: Okay Mr. Governor, your helicopter is ready.

Arnold: Alright! Everybody get to the choppa!

CLOSING CREDITS, to T2 music