

# Combining Verification Approaches

<http://d3s.mff.cuni.cz>

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Distributed and  
Dependable  
Systems



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# Verification approaches

- Model checking programs
  - Explicit state (Java Pathfinder)
  - Abstraction-based (CEGAR, ...)
- Symbolic execution (concolic testing)
- Deductive methods (Spec#/Boogie)
- Static analysis (data-flow, pointers)
- Abstract interpretation
- Dynamic analysis (runtime)
  
- Classical testing (e.g., JUnit)

# Evaluation

- Advantages
  - Model checking
    - path-sensitive, very precise, does not scale well (state explosion)
  - Static analysis
    - explores all program behaviors, limited precision, highly scalable
- Limitations
  - Abstraction-based model checking and deductive methods
    - Problem with concurrency (limited support for threads)
    - Very good at checking properties related to data values
  - Explicit state model checking
    - Supports threads well (detecting concurrency errors)
    - Does not handle data non-determinism very well

# Categories

- Search for errors
  - testing, symbolic execution, dynamic analysis
- Search for proofs
  - program model checking, deductive methods

# Search for errors

- Program executed concretely on many inputs
  - Finds only real errors
  - Achieves small coverage
- Abstract execution tracking only some facts
  - Covers all the program paths
  - Reports many false positives
- Intermediate solutions
  - Example: directed concolic testing

# Search for proofs

- Goal: find the safe over-approximation
- Model checking: reachable state space
- Deductive methods: inductive invariant
- Limitations
  - Verification procedure might not terminate
  - State explosion (many thread interleavings)
- Recent solutions: CEGAR

# Bonus topics

- Combining tests and program verification
- Detecting some bugs in web applications
- Static taint (data flow) analysis for Android
- Program termination and checking liveness
- Program synthesis: overview, current state

# Combining tests and verification

- Search for errors and proofs at the same time
- Using results of one search also in the other
- Example: **SYNERGY**
  - B.S. Gulavani, T.A. Henzinger, Y. Kannan, A.V. Nori, and S.K. Rajamani. **SYNERGY: A New Algorithm for Property Checking**. SIGSOFT FSE 2006, ACM.



# Example program

```
x = 0;
```

```
while (x < 1000) {  
    x = x + 1;  
}
```

```
assert (x > 1000);
```

# Combining tests and verification

- Goal: compute **inductive invariant** (safety proof) or find a real **counterexample**
- Verification: over-approximation (may)
  - Refine abstraction of the transition relation (abstract state space)
- Tests: under-approximation (must)
  - Generalize inductive invariant from a finite set of finite paths (execution traces)
- Key property of algorithms: **convergence**

# Combining tests and verification

- Selected literature

- A. Albarghouthi, A. Gurfinkel, and M. Chechik. **From Under-Approximations to Over-Approximations and Back.** TACAS 2012
- A. Albarghouthi, A. Gurfinkel, and M. Chechik. **Whale: An Interpolation-Based Algorithm for Inter-procedural Verification.** VMCAI 2012
- A. Gurfinkel, T. Kahsai, A. Komuravelli, and J.A. Navas. **The SeaHorn Verification Framework.** CAV 2015
- P. Godefroid, A.V. Nori, S.K. Rajamani, and S. Tetali. **Compositional May-Must Program Analysis: Unleashing the Power of Alternation.** POPL 2010

# Property-driven reachability (PDR)

- Specific algorithm: **IC3**
- A.R. Bradley. **SAT-Based Model Checking without Unrolling**. VMCAI 2011
- A. Cimatti and Alberto Griggio. **Software Model Checking via IC3**. CAV 2012
- (... and lot more)

# Checking dynamic web applications

- Dynamic programming languages
  - Features: dynamically typed programs, `eval()`
- Implicit input parameters (GET, POST)
- Persistent state (database, cookies)
- Complex patterns of user interactions
- On-the-fly generating of source code
- Control flows through the HTML pages
  - forms, buttons, input events (keyboard, mouse)

# Checking dynamic web applications

- Example: **Apollo**
  - S. Artzi, A. Kiezun, J. Dolby, F. Tip, D. Dig, A.M. Paradkar, and M.D. Ernst. **Finding Bugs in Web Applications Using Dynamic Test Generation and Explicit-State Model Checking**. IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, 36(4), 2010.

# Example program

```
<?php
    if (!isset($_GET['step'])) $step = 1;
    else $step = $_GET['step'];
    if ($_GET["login"] == 1) validateAuth();
    switch ($step) {
        case 1: require('login.php'); break;
        case 2: require('news.php'); break;
        case 3: require('inbox.php'); break;
        default: die("wrong input!");
    }
?>
```

# Static taint analysis for Android

- Example: **FlowDroid**
  - S. Arzt, S. Rasthofer, C. Fritz, E. Bodden, A. Bartel, J. Klein, Y. Le Traon, D. Octeau, and P. McDaniel. **FlowDroid: Precise Context, Flow, Field, Object-sensitive and Lifecycle-aware Taint Analysis for Android Apps.** PLDI 2014
  - <https://blogs.uni-paderborn.de/sse/tools/flowdroid/>



# Convergence

- Classic model checking
  - Program model: abstract reachability tree
  - Path-sensitive: never joins different paths
- Static program analysis
  - Program model: control flow graph (inter-proc)
  - Path-insensitive: losing precision at join points

# Generalization

- Abstract domain
  - Transfer functions
  - Merge operator
  - Termination check
- 
- Based on this research paper
    - D. Beyer, T. A. Henzinger, and G. Theoduloz.  
**Configurable Software Verification: Concretizing the Convergence of Model Checking and Program Analysis.** CAV 2007, LNCS 4590.