

CS-550

Formal verification

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Cursus	Sem.	Type
Computer and Communication Sciences		Opt.
Computer science	MA1, MA3	Opt.
Cybersecurity	MA1, MA3	Opt.
Data Science	MA1, MA3	Opt.
SC master EPFL	MA1, MA3	Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	6
Session	Winter
Semester	Fall
Exam	During the semester
Workload	180h
Weeks	14
Hours	6 weekly
Courses	2 weekly
Exercises	2 weekly
TP	2 weekly
Number of positions	

Summary

We introduce formal verification as an approach for developing highly reliable systems. Formal verification finds proofs that computer systems work under all relevant scenarios. We will learn how to use formal verification tools and explain the theory and the practice behind them.

Content

Topics may include (among others) some of the following:

- Importance of Reliable Systems. Methodology of Formal Verification. Soundness and Completeness in Modeling and Tools. Successful Tools and Flagship Case Studies
- Review of Sets, Relations, Computability, Propositional and First-Order Logic Syntax, Semantics, Sequent Calculus.
- Completeness and Semi-Decidability for First-Order Logic. Inductive Definitions and Proof Trees. Higher-Order Logic and LCF Approach.
- State Machines. Transition Formulas. Traces. Strongest Postconditions and Weakest Preconditions.
- Hoare Logic. Inductive Invariants. Well-Founded Relations and Termination Measures
- Linear Temporal Logic. System Verilog Assertions. Monitors
- SAT Solvers and Bounded Model Checking
- Model Checking using Binary Decision Diagrams
- Loop Invariants. Hoare Logic. Statically Checked Function Contracts. Relational Semantics and Fixed-Point Semantics
- Symbolic Execution. Satisfiability Modulo Theories
- Abstract Interpretation and Predicate Abstraction
- Information Flow and Taint Analysis
- Verification of Security Protocols
- Dependent and Refinement Types

Learning Prerequisites**Recommended courses**

Computer Language Processing / Compilers

Important concepts to start the course

Discrete Mathematics

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Formalize specifications
- Synthesize loop invariants
- Specify software functionality
- Generalize inductive hypothesis
- Critique current software development practices

Teaching methods

Instructors will present lectures and exercises and supervise labs on student laptops.

Expected student activities

Follow the course material and complete and explain projects during the semester.

Assessment methods

The grade is based on the code, documentation, and explanation of projects during the semester. There are no written exams.

Supervision

Office hours	Yes
Assistants	Yes
Forum	Yes

Resources

Bibliography

- **Harrison, J. (2009). *Handbook of Practical Logic and Automated Reasoning*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/CBO9780511576430**
- **Aaron Bradley and Zohar Manna: *The Calculus of Computation - Decision Procedures with Applications to Verification*, Springer 2007.**
- Michael Huth and Mark Ryan: *Logic in Computer Science - Modelling and Reasoning about Systems*. Cambridge University Press 2004.
- *Handbook of Model Checking*, <https://www.springer.com/de/book/9783319105741> Springer 2018. Including Chapter Model Checking Security Protocols by David Basin.
- Tobias Nipkow, Gerwin Klein: *Concrete Semantics with Isabelle/HOL*. <http://concrete-semantics.org/concrete-semantics.pdf>
- Nielson, Flemming, Nielson, Hanne R., Hankin, Chris: *Principles of Program Analysis*. ISBN 978-3-662-03811-6. Springer 1999.
- Peter B. Andrews: *An Introduction to Mathematical Logic and Type Theory (To Truth Through Proof)*, Springer 2002.
- <http://logitext.mit.edu/tutorial>

Ressources en bibliothèque

- [Handbook of model checking / Clarke](#)

- [Introduction to mathematical logic and type theory / Andrews](#)
- [Principles of Program Analysis / Flemming](#)
- [The Calculus of Computation / Bradley](#)
- [Logic in Computer Science / Huth](#)
- [Handbook of model checking : Model Checking Security Protocols / Bassin](#)

Notes/Handbook

- <https://lara.epfl.ch/w/fv>

Websites

- <https://lara.epfl.ch/w/fv>

Videos

- <https://tube.switch.ch/channels/f2d4e01d>

Prerequisite for

MSc thesis in the LARA group