MINGSHUAI CHEN

Formal Verification Group · College of Computer Science and Technology · Zhejiang University Zheda Road 38, Hangzhou 310027, Zhejiang, China

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EMPLOYMENT

College of Computer Science and Technology, Zhejiang University

Jan. 2023 - present

Assistant Professor of Computer Science leading the Formal Verification Group

Dept. of Computer Science, RWTH Aachen University

Sep. 2019 - Nov. 2022

Postdoctoral Researcher at Software Modeling and Verification Group Head: Prof. Dr. Joost-Pieter Katoen

EDUCATION

Institute of Software, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Sep. 2013 - Jun. 2019

Advisor: Prof. Dr. Naijun Zhan Ph.D. in Computer Science (with honour) at St. Key Lab. Comput. Sci.

- · Dissertation: Verification and Synthesis of Time-Delayed Dynamical Systems
- · Award: CAS-President Special Award

Dept. of Computing Science, Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg

Fall, 2015 - 2018

Advisor: Prof. Dr. Martin Fränzle

College of Computer Science and Technology, Jilin University

Sep. 2009 - Jun. 2013

B.Sc. in Computer Science (with honour)

Visiting scholar at Hybrid Systems Group

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My primary research interest lies in the general scope of formal verification and synthesis, broadly construed in mathematical logic and theoretical computer science. I develop formal reasoning techniques for programs and hybrid discrete-continuous systems for ensuring the reliability and effectiveness of safety-critical cyber-physical systems, and aim to push the limits of automation as far as possible. This is an interdisciplinary subject that spans the realms of mathematics, computer science, and control theory. Topic-wise, I am interested in semantics and qualitative/quantitative verification of computer programs; modelling, verification, and synthesis of hybrid systems; reachability analysis; invariant/interpolant/controller synthesis; probabilistic/quantum/timedelayed systems; and cyber-physical systems. The formal techniques that I am interested in include computer algebra, symbolic computation, quantitative inference, automated/interactive theorem proving, (non-)convex optimization, SAT/SMT-solving, abstract interpretation, differential dynamics, algorithmic game theory, process algebra, temporal logic, etc. Recently, I took an interest in the principles of probabilistic programming, with the main focus on automatic verification and semi-automated generation of loop invariants for infinitestate probabilistic programs and techniques for determining termination properties.

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Lecturing

The Principles of Compilers, B.Sc., ZJU

SS 24

Teaching Assistant

Trends in Computer-Aided Verification, B.Sc./M.Sc., Seminar in Theoretical CS, RWTH Aachen SS 21/22

Concurrency Theory, M.Sc., RWTH Aachen Probabilistic Programming, B.Sc./M.Sc., Seminar in Theoretical CS, RWTH Aachen WS 21-22

WS 20-21 SS 20

Theoretical Foundations of the UML, M.Sc., RWTH Aachen

WS 17-18/18-19

Theories of Programming, M.Sc., UCAS

Editor & Committee Chair

Guest Editor of Special Issue on Formal Methods and Applications of Journal of Software

Nov. 2024

Co-Chair of Forum on Formal Methods and Applications at ChinaSoft 2024

Nov. 2024 November 13, 2024

Co-Chair of Forum on Theor. Eng. Software under Uncertainty at ChinaSoft 2024	Nov. 2024	
Committee Member		
Senior Member of the China Computer Federation (CCF)	Sep. 2024 - present	
Corresponding Member of CCF Technical Committee on Formal Methods	Jul. 2023 - present	
Member of CCF Technical Committee on Theoretical Computer Science	Jul. 2023 - present	
Reviewer Panel of Mathematical Reviews	Oct. 2021 - present	
Program Committee Member of TASE 2025	Jul. 2025	
Program Committee Member of TACAS 2025	May 2025	
Program Committee Member of FSEN 2025	Apr. 2025	
Program Committee Member of SETTA 2024	Nov. 2024	
Program Committee Member of RTCSA 2024/2021	Aug. 2024/2021	
Program Committee Member of ICWS 2024 (SRG Workshop)	Jul. 2024	
Program Committee Member of SYNASC 2022 (Logic and Programming Track)	Sep. 2022	
Repeatability Evaluation Program Committee Member of ADHS 2021	Jul. 2021	
Artifact Evaluation Committee Member of VMCAI 2021	Jan. 2021	
External Reviewer FM '24, EMSOFT '24/19, VMCAI '24, TACAS '23/21, POPL '23, ICALP '22, TASE '22/15, SAFECOMP '22, CAV '21/20, ADHS '21/18, ECC '21/16, HSCC '20, FORMATS '20, RTSS '19, MEMOCODE '18, ATVA '18/15, ICECCS '17, TIME '16, VSTTE '16, UTP '16, JP. Katoen's Festschrift, ACM Trans. Cyber-Phys. Syst., Sci. Comput. Program., Form. Asp. Comput., Nonlinear Anal.: Hybrid Syst., C. Zhou's Festschrift, Royal Society Open Science		
Open Science		
Honors & Awards		
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Honors & Awards		
Honors & Awards Recipient of the NSFC Excellent Young Scientists Fund Program (Overseas)		
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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

cf. page 6 for a complete list of publications

- FM '24 Proving Functional Program Equivalence via Directed Lemma Synthesis Y. Sun, R. Ji, J. Fang, X. Jiang, M. Chen, and Y. Xiong 26th Int. Symp. on Formal Methods (FM 2024)
- OOPSLA '24 Exact Bayesian Inference for Loopy Probabilistic Programs
 L. Klinkenberg, C. Blumenthal, M. Chen[™], D. Haase, and J.-P. Katoen
 The OOPSLA 2024 issue of the Proc. of the ACM on Programming Languages (PACMPL)
- OOPSLA '23 Lower Bounds for Possibly Divergent Probabilistic Programs
 S. Feng, M. Chen[™], H. Su, B. L. Kaminski, J.-P. Katoen, and N. Zhan
 The OOPSLA 2023 issue of the Proc. of the ACM on Programming Languages (PACMPL)
- TACAS '23 Probabilistic Program Verification via Inductive Synthesis of Inductive Invariants K. Batz, M. Chen[⊠], S. Junges, B. L. Kaminski, J.-P. Katoen, and C. Matheja 29th Int. Conf. on Tools and Algorithms for Construction and Analysis of Systems (TACAS 2023)
- Inf. Com. Encoding Inductive Invariants as Barrier Certificates Q. Wang, M. Chen[™], B. Xue, N. Zhan, and J.-P. Katoen Information and Computation, 2022
- CAV '22 Does a Program Yield the Right Distribution?
 M. Chen[™], J.-P. Katoen, L. Klinkenberg, and T. Winkler
 34th Int. Conf. on Computer Aided Verification (CAV 2022)
- Acta Inf. Indecision and Delays Are the Parents of Failure M. Chen[™], M. Fränzle, Y. Li, P. N. Mosaad, and N. Zhan Acta Informatica, 2021
- CAV '21 Latticed k-Induction with an Application to Probabilistic Programs
 K. Batz, M. Chen[™], B. L. Kaminski, J.-P. Katoen, C. Matheja, and P. Schröer
 33rd Int. Conf. on Computer Aided Verification (CAV 2021)
- CAV '21 Synthesizing Invariant Barrier Certificates via Difference-of-Convex Programming Q. Wang, M. Chen[™], B. Xue, N. Zhan, and J.-P. Katoen 33rd Int. Conf. on Computer Aided Verification (CAV 2021)
- CAV '20 Unbounded-Time Safety Verification of Stochastic Differential Dynamics S. Feng, M. Chen[™], B. Xue, S. Sankaranarayanan, and N. Zhan 32nd Int. Conf. on Computer Aided Verification (CAV 2020)
- CAV '19 Taming Delays in Dynamical Systems
 S. Feng, M. Chen[™], N. Zhan, M. Fränzle, and B. Xue
 31st Int. Conf. on Computer Aided Verification (CAV 2019)
- CADE '19 NIL: Learning Nonlinear Interpolants
 M. Chen[™], J. Wang, J. An, B. Zhan, D. Kapur, and N. Zhan
 27th Int. Conf. on Automated Deduction (CADE 2019)

IEEE TAC Reachability Analysis for Solvable Dynamical Systems

T. Gan, M. Chen, Y. Li, B. Xia, and N. Zhan

IEEE Trans. Automat. Contr., 2018

IJCAR '16 Interpolant Synthesis for Quadratic Polynomial Inequalities and Combination with EUF

T. Gan, L. Dai, N. Zhan, D. Kapur, and M. Chen

8th Int. Joint Conf. on Automated Reasoning (IJCAR 2016)

FM '16 Validated Simulation-Based Verification of Delayed Differential Dynamics

M. Chen, M. Fränzle, Y. Li, P. N. Mosaad, and N. Zhan

21st Int. Symp. on Formal Methods (FM 2016)

SELECTED TOOLS/PROTOTYPES

- **Prodicy**: A tool that decides whether a given probabilistic loop agrees with an (invariant) specification encoded as a loop-free program; it supports exact inference and efficient queries on posterior distributions.
- CEGISPRO2: A tool that proves upper- and/or lower bounds on expected outcomes of possibly infinite-state probabilistic programs by synthesizing piecewise linear quantitative inductive invariants.
- KIPRO2: A tool that performs in parallel latticed k-induction and BMC to fully automatically verify upper bounds on expected values of possibly infinite-state probabilistic programs.
- BMI-DC: A prototype that proves unbounded-time safety of differential dynamical systems by synthesizing invariant barrier certificates via difference-of-convex programming.
- NIL: A learning-based tool that automatically synthesizes non-trivial (reverse) Craig interpolants for the quantifier-free theory of nonlinear arithmetic.
- **DGAME**: A tool that automatically synthesizes finite-memory controllers (a.k.a. winning strategies) for safety games under delayed information.
- MPPs: A procedure for deciding termination by computing the set of non-terminating inputs for multi-path polynomial programs with equality conditions.
- MARS: A toolchain for modelling, analyzing and verifying hybrid systems, which has been successfully applied in the verification of the Chinese lunar lander Chang'e-3 and the high-speed rail in China.

SELECTED TALKS

Dissertation Defence

• Verification & Synthesis of Time-Delayed Dynamics, *Doctoral Dissertation Defence at ISCAS*, Beijing, China, May 2019.

Tutorials

- Taming Delays in Cyber-Physical Systems, *ESWEEK*, Shanghai, China, Oct. 2022. [Tutorial co-presented with Naijun Zhan].
- Formal Analysis, Verification and Design of Safety-Critical CPS, RTSS, Houston, USA, Dec. 2020. [Tutorial co-presented with Lei Bu, Qixin Wang and Naijun Zhan].

Conferences, Workshops, Seminars & Visits

- Reasoning about Loopy Probabilistic Programs, PurPL Seminar, Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA, Sep. 2024 & Colloquium Talk at Seminar on Software Engineering and Programming Languages, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong, China, Jan. 2024 & CCF Beautiful Lake Seminars on Formal Verification of Large-Scale Infrastructure Software, Suzhou, China, Aug. 2024.
- Lower Bounds for Possibly Divergent Probabilistic Programs, MOVES' Colloquium at Schloss Dagstuhl, Saarbrücken, Germany, Apr. 2022 & ROCKS, Nijmegen, Netherlands, May 2022 & OOPSLA, Lisbon, Portugal, Oct. 2023.
- Latticed k-Induction with an Application to Probabilistic Programs, Information Sciences Seminar & Youth Forum, Peking University, Beijing, China, Oct. 2021 & ISCAS Seminar, ISCAS, Beijing, China, Dec. 2022.

- Synthesizing Invariant Barrier Certificates via Difference-of-Convex Programming, Seminar on Cyber-Physical Systems, University of Southampton, Southampton, UK, Apr. 2021 & CAV, Los Angeles, USA, Jul. 2021.
- On ∞ -Safety of Stochastic Differential Dynamics, MOVES Seminar, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany, Apr. 2020 & CAV, Los Angeles, USA, Jul. 2020.
- (In-)Variant Synthesis for Probabilistic Programs [Immature Idea], MOVES' Winter Colloquium at Kleinwalsertal, Kleinwalsertal, Austria, Feb. 2020.
- Interpolation over Nonlinear Arithmetic Towards Program Reasoning and Verification, *PKU Seminar on Programming Languages*, *Peking University*, Beijing, China, Sep. 2019 & *MOVES Seminar*, *RWTH Aachen University*, Aachen, Germany, Nov. 2019 & *FACAS*, La Falda, Córdoba, Argentina, Mar. 2022.
- Taming Delays in Dynamical Systems Unbounded Verification of Delay Differential Equations, *CAV*, New York City, USA, Jul. 2019.
- Modelling · Verification · Synthesis A Peek into the Blueprint of Hybrid Systems, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen & Technische Universität München, München, Germany, Oct. 2018.
- What's to Come is Still Unsure Synthesizing Controllers Resilient to Delayed Interaction, *ATVA*, Los Angeles, USA, Oct. 2018 & *CAP*, Beijing, China, Sep. 2018 & *MISSION@INVAP*, San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, Feb. 2022.
- Towards Delays in Dynamical and Control Systems Verification & Synthesis, *Universität des Saarlandes*, Saarbrücken, Germany, Jul. 2016 & *LEDS*, Shanghai, China, Dec. 2016.
- Validated Simulation-Based Verification of Delayed Differential Dynamics, FM, Limassol, Cyprus, Nov. 2016.
- Computing Reachable Sets of Linear Vector Fields Revisited, ECC, Aalborg, Denmark, Jun. 2016.
- A Two-Way Path between Formal and Informal Design of Embedded Systems, UTP & iFM, Reykjavík, Iceland, Jun. 2016.
- HHL Prover: An Improved Interactive Theorem Prover for Hybrid Systems, ICFEM, Paris, France, Nov. 2015.
- Decidability of Reachability for a Family of Linear Vector Fields, ATVA, Shanghai, China, Oct. 2015.

VISITS & PARTICIPATIONS

Academic Visits

ALPACAS Research Group, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong, China Jan. 2024 Software Modeling and Verification Group, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany Oct. 2023/2018 St. Key Lab. Comput. Sci., Institute of Software, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China Dec. 2022 Hybrid Systems Group, C. v. Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg, Oldenburg, Germany Fall, 2015 - 2018 Chair of Robotics, AI and Real-time Syst., Technische Universität München, München, Germany Oct. 2018 Dependable Systems and Software Group, Universität des Saarlandes, Saarbrücken, Germany Jul. 2016

Conferences & Workshops

ChinaSoft '24, SPLASH '23, ESWEEK '22, ROCKS '22, FACAS '22, MISSION '22, RP '21, LPP '21, CPS-IoT Week '21, VSOW03 '21, CAV '21/20/19/17, RTSS '20, ETAPS '20, ATVA '18/15, HLF '18, CONFESTA '18, CAP '18/17, SETTA '17, FMAC '17/16, FM '16, ECC '16, iFM&UTP '16, LEDS '16/14, ICFEM '15, CDZ '14, SAVE '14

Summer/Autumn Schools

The Summer School on Formal Methods, Beijing, China	Aug. $2019/2018$
The 3rd School on Engineering Trustworthy Software Systems, Chongqing, China	Apr. 2017
The 2nd AVACS Autumn School, Oldenburg, Germany	Oct. 2015
The 4th Summer School in Symbolic Computation, Beijing, China	Aug. 2015
The 5th Summer School on Formal Techniques, Atherton, CA, USA	May 2015
The 4th SAT/SMT Summer School, Semmering, Austria	Jul. 2014

November 13, 2024 Mingshuai Chen 5/8

English: working-language German: for survival only Chinese: mother-tongue

Complete List of Publications

Dissertation

[1] M. Chen[⊠]. Verification and synthesis of time-delayed dynamical systems. *PhD Dissertation*, Institute of Software, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China, 2019. [Nomination for the CAS Excellent Doctoral Dissertation Award].

Book Chapters

- [2] S. Feng, T. Yang, M. Chen[™], and N. Zhan. A unified framework for quantitative analysis of probabilistic programs. In *Principles of Verification: Cycling the Probabilistic Landscape*, pages 230–254. Springer, 2025.
- [3] M. Chen[™], X. Han, T. Tang, S. Wang, M. Yang, N. Zhan, H. Zhao, and L. Zou. MARS: A toolchain for modelling, analysis and verification of hybrid systems. In *Provably Correct Systems*, pages 39–58. Springer, 2017.

Journal Articles

- [4] L. Klinkenberg, C. Blumenthal, M. Chen[⊠], D. Haase, and J. Katoen. Exact Bayesian inference for loopy probabilistic programs. *Proc. ACM Program. Lang.*, number OOPSLA1, (OOPSLA1), 2024. [To appear, Arfifact Evaluated].
- [5] J. Chen, F. Wang, S. Pang, M. Chen[™], M. Xi, T. Zhao, and J. Yin. A privacy policy text compliance reasoning framework with large language models for healthcare services. *Tsinghua Sci. Tech.*, 2024. [To appear].
- [6] S. Feng, M. Chen[⊠], H. Su, B. L. Kaminski, J.-P. Katoen, and N. Zhan. Lower bounds for possibly divergent probabilistic programs. *Proc. ACM Program. Lang.*, 7(OOPSLA1):696–726, 2023.
- [7] Q. Wang, M. Chen[⊠], B. Xue, N. Zhan, and J.-P. Katoen. Encoding inductive invariants as barrier certificates: Synthesis via difference-of-convex programming. *Inf. Comput.*, 289:104965, 2022.
- [8] M. Chen[™], M. Fränzle, Y. Li, P. N. Mosaad, and N. Zhan. Indecision and delays are the parents of failure - Taming them algorithmically by synthesizing delay-resilient control. *Acta Informatica*, 58(5):497–528, 2021.
- [9] J. Wang, J. An, M. Chen, N. Zhan, L. Wang, M. Zhang, and T. Gan. From model to implementation: A network-algorithm programming language. *Sci. China Inf. Sci.*, 63(7), 2020.
- [10] M. Fränzle, M. Chen, and P. Kröger. In memory of Oded Maler: Automatic reachability analysis of hybrid-state automata. *ACM SIGLOG News*, 6(1):19–39, 2019.
- [11] T. Gan, M. Chen, Y. Li, B. Xia, and N. Zhan. Reachability analysis for solvable dynamical systems. *IEEE Trans. Automat. Contr.*, 63(7):2003–2018, 2018.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers

- [12] M. Yang, K. Batz, M. Chen, J.-P. Katoen, Z. Wu, and J. Yin. Latticed craig interpolation with an application to probabilistic verification. In CIBD '24, 2024. [Extended Abstract].
- [13] Z. Wang, L. Yang, M. Chen[™], Y. Bu, Z. Li, Q. Wang, S. Qin, X. Yi, and J. Yin. PARF: Adaptive parameter refining for abstract interpretation. In *Proc. of ASE '24*, pages 1082–1093. ACM, 2024.
- [14] S. Tan, H. Zhang, J. Yu, C. Lang, Y. Shang, X. Zhao, M. Chen, Y. Liang, L. Lu, and J. Yin. QuFEM: Fast and accurate quantum readout calibration using the finite element method. In *Proc. of ASPLOS '24*, pages 948–963. ACM, 2024. [To appear].

- [15] S. Tan, D. Xiang, L. Lu, J. Lu, Q. Jiang, M. Chen, and J. Yin. MorphQPV: Exploiting isomorphism in quantum programs to facilitate confident verification. In *Proc. of ASPLOS* '24, pages 671–688. ACM, 2024.
- [16] Y. Sun, R. Ji, J. Fang, X. Jiang, M. Chen, and Y. Xiong. Proving functional program equivalence via directed lemma synthesis. In *Proc. of FM '24*, 2024. [To appear].
- [17] Y. Sun, M. Chen[™], K. Zhao, and J. Chen. HORAE: A domain-agnostic modeling language for automating multimodal service regulation. In *Proc. of ICWS (SRG) '24*, 2024. [Work-in-Progress Paper, To appear].
- [18] J. Chen, F. Wang, S. Pang, S. Tan, M. Chen[™], T. Zhao, M. Xi, and J. Yin. UniGM: Unifying multiple pre-trained graph models via adaptive knowledge aggregation. In *Proc. of MM '24*, pages 8556–8565. ACM, 2024.
- [19] L. Klinkenberg, T. Winkler, M. Chen, and J.-P. Katoen. Exact probabilistic inference using generating functions. In *LAFI* '23, 2023. [Extended Abstract].
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