MINGSHUAI CHEN

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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

Visiting scholar at Hybrid Systems Group Advisor: Prof. Dr. Martin Fränzle

College of Computer Science and Technology, Jilin University

Sep. 2009 - Jun. 2013

B.Sc. in Computer Science (with honour)

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

Committee Member

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

Concurrency Theory, M.Sc., RWTH Aachen

WS 21-22

Probabilistic Programming, B.Sc./M.Sc., Seminar in Theoretical CS, RWTH Aachen

WS 20-21

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

SS 20

Theories of Programming, M.Sc., UCAS

Corresponding Member of CCF Technical Committee on Formal Methods

Jul. 2023 - present

WS 17-18/18-19

Member of CCF Technical Committee on Theoretical Computer Science

Jul. 2023 - present

Reviewer Panel of Mathematical Reviews	Oct. 2021 - present
Program Committee Member of FSEN 2025	Apr. 2025
Program Committee Member of RTCSA $2024/2021$	Aug. $2024/2021$
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	
VMCAI '24, TACAS '23/21, POPL '23, ICALP '22, TASE '22/15, SAFECOMP '22, CAV '2 ECC '21/16, HSCC '20, FORMATS '20, RTSS '19, EMSOFT '19, MEMOCODE '18, ATVA TIME '16, VSTTE '16, UTP '16, ACM Trans. Cyber-Phys. Syst., Sci. Comput. Program put., Nonlinear Anal.: Hybrid Syst., C. Zhou's Festschrift, Royal Society Open Science	`18/15, ICECCS '17
Honors & Awards	
Recipient of the NSFC Excellent Young Scientists Fund Program (Overseas)	Oct. 2023
High-Impact Publication [17] in CS by Chinese Researchers across from Springer Nature	Feb. 2021
Nomination for the CAS Excellent Doctoral Dissertation Award [1]	Mar. 2020
CAS-President Special Award (1st awardee from ISCAS ever since its inception in 1985)	Jul. 2019
Best Paper Award [17] at FMAC 2019	Dec. 2019
Distinguished Paper Award [20] at ATVA 2018	Oct. 2018
National Scholarship	Oct. $2018/2010$
Selected Attendee of the 6th Heidelberg Laureate Forum	Sep. 2018
Outstanding Student Award of UCAS Scientific Research Project	Dec. 2013
Grants	
[PI] ZJNSF Major Program: Hybrid Comput. Models and Theories for Heterogeneous Co	omput. 2024 - 2027
[PI] NSFC Excellent Young Scientists Fund (Overseas): Formal Design of Safety-Critical	CPS 2024 - 2027
[Co-I] ZJNSF Major Program: Theory of Generative Operating Systems	2024 - 2027
[Co-I] ZJDST R&D Program: Adaptive Operating Systems Against Complex Environme	ents 2024 - 2027
[Co-I] ZJDST R&D Program: Quantum Key Distribution Systems: Terminals and Proto	ocols 2024 - 2027
[PI] CCF-Huawei Populus Grove Fund: Self-Adaptive Abstract Interpretation for C Prog	grams 2023 - 2024
[PI] ZJU 100 Young Professor: Foundations of Cyber-Physical Systems	2023 - 2029
[PI] Qizhen Scholar: Talent program funded by ZJU Education Foundation	2023 - 2026
[Co-I] National Key R&D Program: General Theory and Tech. of Service Intelligent Superior $\overline{\mathbb{C}}$	ervision 2022 - 2025
$\left[\text{Co-I}\right]$ NSFC General Program: Formal Verification of Delayed Dynamical and Hybrid Symmetric Symmetric Program:	ystems 2019 - 2022
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS cf. page 5 for a comp	plete list of publications

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) **TACAS '20** Learning One-Clock Timed Automata Rest Paper Award at FMAC 2019 J. An, M. Chen, B. Zhan, N. Zhan, and M. Zhang 26th Int. Conf. on Tools and Algorithms for Construction and Analysis of Systems (TACAS 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) **ATVA '18** What's to Come Is Still Unsure Distinguished Paper Award M. Chen[⊠], M. Fränzle, Y. Li, P. N. Mosaad, and N. Zhan 16th Int. Symp. on Automated Technology for Verification and Analysis (ATVA 2018) **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 EUFT. Gan, L. Dai, N. Zhan, D. Kapur, and M. Chen 8th Int. Joint Conf. on Automated Reasoning (IJCAR 2016)

SELECTED TOOLS/PROTOTYPES

FM '16

• **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.

Validated Simulation-Based Verification of Delayed Differential Dynamics

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

probabilistic programs by synthesizing piecewise linear quantitative inductive invariants.

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

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

- 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, Colloquium Talk at Seminar on Software Engineering and Programming Languages, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong, China, Jan. 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

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

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages	C/C++, Python, Mathematica, Maple, Matlab/Simulink, LATEX
Operating Systems	macOS, Unix/Linux, Windows (dedicated to video games)
Software Tools	ARCH toolset, ATP/ITP, model checkers, SDP solvers, algebra systems

LANGUAGES

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] 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

- [3] 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.
- [4] 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.
- [5] 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.
- [6] 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.
- [7] 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.
- [8] 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.
- [9] 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

- [10] 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*. ACM, 2024. [To appear].
- [11] L. Klinkenberg, T. Winkler, M. Chen, and J.-P. Katoen. Exact probabilistic inference using generating functions. In *LAFI* '23, 2023. [Extended Abstract].
- [12] K. Batz, M. Chen[™], S. Junges, B. L. Kaminski, J.-P. Katoen, and C. Matheja. Probabilistic program verification via inductive synthesis of inductive invariants. In *Proc. of TACAS '23*, pages 410–429, 2023. [Arfifact Evaluated].
- [13] M. Chen[⊠], J.-P. Katoen, L. Klinkenberg, and T. Winkler. Does a program yield the right distribution? Verifying probabilistic programs via generating functions. In *Proc. of CAV '22*, pages 79–101, 2022. [Arfifact Evaluated].
- [14] Q. Wang, M. Chen[⊠], B. Xue, N. Zhan, and J.-P. Katoen. Synthesizing invariant barrier certificates via difference-of-convex programming. In *Proc. of CAV '21*, pages 443–466, 2021. [Arfifact Evaluated].
- [15] K. Batz, M. Chen[⊠], B. L. Kaminski, J.-P. Katoen, C. Matheja, and P. Schröer. Latticed k-induction with an application to probabilistic programs. In *Proc. of CAV '21*, pages 524–549, 2021. [Arfifact Evaluated].
- [16] S. Feng, M. Chen[⊠], B. Xue, S. Sankaranarayanan, and N. Zhan. Unbounded-time safety verification of stochastic differential dynamics. In *Proc. of CAV '20*, pages 327–348, 2020. [Arfifact Evaluated].
- [17] J. An, M. Chen, B. Zhan, N. Zhan, and M. Zhang. Learning one-clock timed automata. In *Proc. of TACAS* '20, pages 444–462, 2020. [Arfifact Evaluated · Best Paper Award at FMAC 2019].
- [18] S. Feng, M. Chen[⊠], N. Zhan, M. Fränzle, and B. Xue. Taming delays in dynamical systems Unbounded verification of delay differential equations. In *Proc. of CAV '19*, pages 650–669, 2019. [Arfifact Evaluated].
- [19] M. Chen[™], J. Wang, J. An, B. Zhan, D. Kapur, and N. Zhan. NIL: Learning nonlinear interpolants. In Proc. of CADE '19, pages 178–196, 2019.

- [20] M. Chen[⋈], M. Fränzle, Y. Li, P. N. Mosaad, and N. Zhan. What's to come is still unsure Synthesizing controllers resilient to delayed interaction. In *Proc. of ATVA '18*, pages 56–74, 2018. [Distinguished Paper Award].
- [21] B. Xue, P. N. Mosaad, M. Fränzle, M. Chen, Y. Li, and N. Zhan. Safe over- and under-approximation of reachable sets for delay differential equations. In *Proc. of FORMATS* '17, pages 281–299, 2017.
- [22] T. Gan, L. Dai, B. Xia, N. Zhan, D. Kapur, and M. Chen. Interpolant synthesis for quadratic polynomial inequalities and combination with *EUF*. In *Proc. of IJCAR '16*, pages 195–212, 2016.
- [23] T. Gan, M. Chen, Y. Li, B. Xia, and N. Zhan. Computing reachable sets of linear vector fields revisited. In *Proc. of ECC '16*, pages 419–426, 2016.
- [24] M. Chen, A. P. Ravn, S. Wang, M. Yang, and N. Zhan. A two-way path between formal and informal design of embedded systems. In *Proc. of UTP '16*, pages 65–92, 2016.
- [25] M. Chen, M. Fränzle, Y. Li, P. N. Mosaad, and N. Zhan. Validated simulation-based verification of delayed differential dynamics. In Proc. of FM '16, pages 137–154, 2016.
- [26] T. Gan, M. Chen, L. Dai, B. Xia, and N. Zhan. Decidability of the reachability for a family of linear vector fields. In Proc. of ATVA '15, pages 482–499, 2015.

Manuscripts under Review

- [27] Y. Li, N. Zhan, M. Chen[™], H. Lu, G. Wu, and J.-P. Katoen. On termination of polynomial programs with equality conditions. 2024. Under submission.
- [28] S. Feng, M. Chen, H. Wu, H. Su, and N. Zhan. Tolerant barrier certificates for stochastic systems. 2024. Under submission.
- [29] Z. Zhang, C. Yu, H. Huang, R. Chang, M. Chen, Q. Dai, W. Shen, Y. Zhao, and K. Ren. PA-Boot: A formally verified authentication protocol for multiprocessor secure boot. 2023. Under submission.