# Software Systems Verification and Validation



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Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science Babeş-Bolyai University





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"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

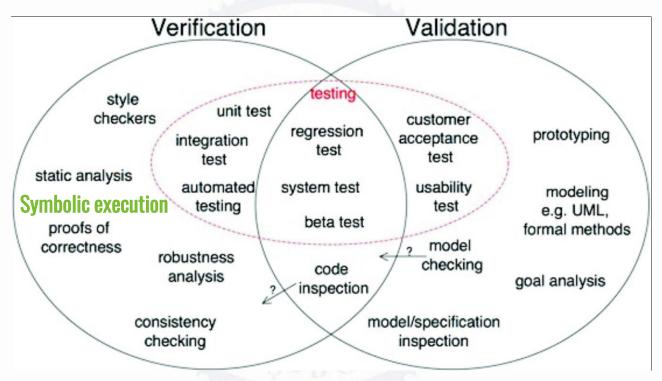
(Benjamin Franklin)

# (Next)/Today Lecture

Symbolic execution

Model checking

### What we will learn!



• <a href="http://www.easterbrook.ca/steve/2010/11/the-difference-between-verification-and-validation/">http://www.easterbrook.ca/steve/2010/11/the-difference-between-verification-and-validation/</a>

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### **Outline**

- Static analysis, Testing, Symbolic execution
- Conventional vs Symbolic execution
- Symbolic execution for sequential, alternative, repetitive structures
  - Sequential structure execution
  - Alternative structure execution
  - Repetitive structure execution
- Symbolic Execution Tree
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  - Properties
- Questions
- Next lecture (still today)
  - Model checking

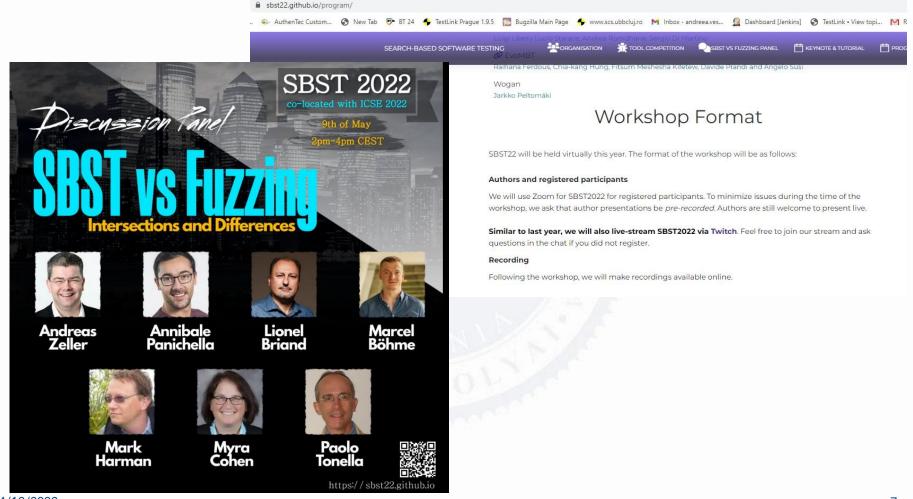
# Static analysis Symbolic execution

- Bugs that are missed by testing: rare features, rare circumstances, nondeterminism.
  - → Static analysis
    - Can analyze all possible runs of a program
    - But can it find deep, difficult bugs?
      - Abstraction let us model all possible runs
      - Static analysis abstraction
         developer abstraction
- Testing works
  - reported bugs are real bugs, but each test only explores one possible execution.
     asssert (f(5)==6)
  - We hope test cases generalize, but no guarantees!
  - → Symbolic execution generalizes testing

$$\rightarrow$$
 y= $\alpha$ , assert(f(y)==2\*y+1)

- Remarks:
  - symbolic execution is not meant to inspect the quality of the code.
    - static analysis deals with issues of path feasibility,
    - dynamic analysis tends to deal with path coverage.
  - Symbolic analysis is sort of in between and deals with state space explosion by logically forking the analysis at branches and solving for a set of satisfiable constraints.

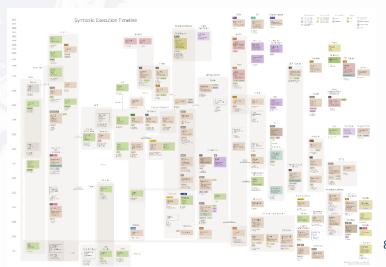
# 2022 - Fuzzing vs SBST Intersections and Differences



### Symbolic execution - research

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- 2005 Microsoft: DART [God05]
- 2006 Univ. Stanford: EXE, Univ. Illinois: CUTE and jCUTE [SA06]
- 2008 KLEE (Stanford) [CDE08]
- 1999 2016 NASA: Symbolic (Java) Path Finder [PV09], [CS13]
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  - mix concrete and symbolic execution
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  - https://patricegodefroid.github.io/
- 2018
  - Chopped Symbolic Execution (ICSE) (2006 EXE)
  - Shadow Symbolic Execution for Testing Software Patches
  - https://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~cristic/
- 2018 Deep Reinforcement Fuzzing, Konstantin Böttinger, Patrice Godefroid, Rishabh Singh

- **SAGE (2005 DART)** 
  - https://patricegodefroid.github.io/
  - https://channel9.msdn.com/blogs/peli/automate d-whitebox-fuzz-testing-with-sage - video
- https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/security-riskdetection/
- PEX
  - https://www.microsoft.com/enus/research/project/pex-and-moles-isolationand-white-box-unit-testing-fornet/?from=http%3A%2F%2Fresearch.microsoft.c om%2Fen-us%2Fprojects%2Fpex%2F
  - Symbolic execution timeline



### What is symbolic execution?

- Symbolic execution
  - Execution of program with symbols as argument.
  - Symbolic execution supplies symbols (as input to a program) representing arbitrary values.
  - int FunctionName(1, 2) → int FunctionName(a1, a2)
- The execution proceeds as in a normal execution except that values may be symbolic formulae over the input symbols.
- Symbolic execution
  - Produces a concrete input (a test case) on which the program will fail to meet the specification.
  - But it cannot, in general, prove the absence of errors
  - Key idea
    - Evaluate the program on symbolic input values
    - Use an automated theorem prover to check whether there are corresponding concrete input values that make the program fail.

### Symbolic state

- Symbolic state
  - Set of (particular) concrete states, yet not instantiated.
  - Symbolic states represent sets of concrete states.
- A symbolic state is described by:
  - Variables, i.e. symbolic values/expressions for variables;
  - Path condition a conjunct of constraints on the symbolic input values;
  - Program counter the statement that is executed.
- All paths in the program form its execution tree, in which some paths are feasible, and some are infeasible.
- Symbolic execution is a bug finding technique based on automated theorem proving:
  - Evaluates the program on symbolic inputs, and a solver finds concrete values for those inputs that lead to errors.

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# Conventional vs Symbolic execution

### Conventional execution (CE)

- Function Sum
- Normal execution result of Sum(1,3,5)
- 1 : int Sum(int a, int b, int c)
- 2 : int x := a + b;
- 3: int y := b + c;
- 4: int z := x + y b;
- 5: return z;
- 6:

	а	b	C	x	у	Z
1	1	3	5	<u> 144</u>	/ <u>~</u>	224
2	1	3	5	4	-	-
3	1	3	5	4	8	-
4	1	3	5	4	8	9
5	1	3	5	4	8	9

### Conventional vs Symbolic execution

### Symbolic execution (SE)

- Function Sum
- Normal execution result of Sum(1,3,5)
- 1 : int Sum(int a, int b, int c)
- 2 : int x := a + b;
- 3: int y := b + c;
- 4: int z := x + y b;
- 5: return z;
- 6:

	а	b	C	x	у	Z
1	α	β	γ		_	32 <u>4</u>
2	α	β	γ	α+β	_	-
3	α	β	γ	α+β	β+γ	
4	α	β	γ	α+β	β+γ	α+β+γ
5	α	β	γ	α+β	β+γ	α+β+γ

# Symbolic execution for **sequential**, alternative, repetitive structures

- Sequential structure execution
  - path condition
    - condition to execute a statement;
  - when the symbolic execution starts, the value(pc) = true
  - the condition is updated from one statement to other
    - If  $\tau$  represents the condition to execute statement < I > then pc' = pc ^  $\tau$ (I)

# Symbolic execution for sequential, alternative, repetitive structures

Conventional

- Sequential execution -

**Symbolic** 

	а	b	C	x	у	Z
1	1	3	5	-	12	2
2	1	3	5	4	-	-
3	1	3	5	4	8	-
4	1	3	5	4	8	9
5	1	3	5	4	8	9

1 : int Sum(int a, int b, int c) 2 : int x := a + b;

3: int y := b + c;

4: int z := x + y - b;

5: return z;

6:

	a	b	C	x	у	Z
1	α	β	γ	-		-
2	α	β	γ	α+β	_	-
3	α	β	γ	α+β	β+γ	
4	α	β	γ	α+β	β+γ	α+β+γ
5	α	β	γ	α+β	β+γ	α+β+γ

# Symbolic execution for sequential, **alternative**, repetitive structures

- Alternative structure execution
- Symbolic execution of an IF statement
  - if (η) then

    A

    else

    B.
- During symbolic execution  $\rightarrow$  value( $\eta$ ) could be true, false, or some symbolic formula over the input symbols.
  - → "unresolved" execution of a conditional statement
- Path Condition (Initial value of pc is true)
  - pc  $\rightarrow \eta$
  - pc  $\rightarrow \neg \eta$

# Symbolic execution for sequential, **alternative**, repetitive structures

Conventional

- Alternative execution -

**Symbolic** 

	X	b	If condition
1	6	-	-
2	6	False	-
3	6	False	6 modulo 2=0
4	6	True	6 modulo 2=0
6	6	True	6 modulo 2=0

boolean IsEven(int x)
 boolean b := False;
 If (x modulo 2 ==0) ther
 b:=true;
 else
 b:=false;
 IsEven:=b;

+16	X	b	Path condition			
1	α	-	True			
2	α	False	True			
3	α	False	α modulo 2=0			
Case (α modulo 2=0) is True						
3	α	False	α modulo 2=0			
4	α True		α modulo 2=0			
6	α	True	α modulo 2=0			
Case (not (α modulo 2=0)) is True						
5	α	False	not(α modulo 2=0)			

```
Symbolic execution for sequential, alternative, repetitive structures
```

```
    Symbolic execution of a WHILE statement while (η)
    A endWh;
    B
```

- During symbolic execution  $\rightarrow$  value( $\eta$ ) could be true, false, or some symbolic formula over the input symbols.
  - → "unresolved" execution of a conditional statement
- Condition to execute A: pc for executing "while" and  $\eta$ .
- Condition to execute B: pc for executing "while" and  $\neg \eta$ .

# Symbolic execution for sequential, alternative, **repetitive** struct

#### Conventional

	x	y	Z	u	While condition
1	5	3	-	-	
2	5	3	1	-	
3	5	3	1	1	
4	5	3	1	1	1<=3
5	5	3	5	1	
6	5	3	5	2	
4	5	3	5	2	2<=3
5	5	3	25	2	
6	5	3	25	3	
4	5	3	5	3	3<=3
5	5	3	75	3	
6	5	3	75	4	
4	5	3	75	4	not 4<=3
7					
8	5	3	75	4	

#### - Repetitive execution

1 : Power(int x, int y, int z)

2: z := 1;

3: u:=1

4: while( $u \le y$ )

5:  $z:=z^*x;$ 

6: u:=u+1

7: endwh;

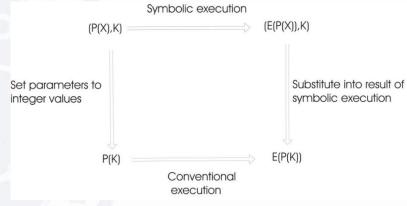
8:

#### **Symbolic**

	×	¥	Z	u	Path condition	Remarks
1	α	β	-		True	
2	α	β	1	7		
3	α	β	1	1		
4	α	β	1	1	1<=β	
		Case	not(	1<=β	), → 1>β	
4	α	β	1	1	1>β	
8	α	β	1	1		β=0 and z=1
				C	ase (1<=β)	
4	α	β	1	1	1<=β	
5	α	β	α	1	1<=β	
6	α	β	α	2	1<=β	
7						
4	α	β	α	2	2<=β and 1<=β	
	С	ase r	not(2<	:=β) i	and 1<=β, → 2>β a	and 1<=β
4	α	β	α	2	2>β and 1<=β	
8	α	β	α	2		β=1 and z=α
	23		С	ase	(2<=β) and 1<=β	
4	α	β	α	2	2<=β and 1<=β	
5	α	β	α²	2	2<=β and 1<=β	
6	α	β	α²	3	2<=β and 1<=β	
7						
4	α	β	α²	3	3<=β and 2<=β and 1<=β	
	5%	Ca			=β) and 2<=β and : and 2<=β and 1<=β	350000 L
4	α	β	α²	3	3>β and 2<=β and 1<=β	
8	α	β	α²	3		β=2 and z=α²

### **Commutativity**

- The same result is obtained using normal execution or using symbolic execution.
- Conventional execution (CE)
  - Sum(a, b, c)  $\rightarrow$  Sum(1, 3, 5)
  - Sum(1, 3, 5) = 9
- Symbolic execution (SE)
  - Sum(a, b, c) =  $\alpha + \beta + \gamma$
  - Instantiate the symbolic result
    - $\rightarrow \alpha = 1, \beta = 3, \gamma = 5$
    - **→**1+3+5=9



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### Symbolic Execution Tree

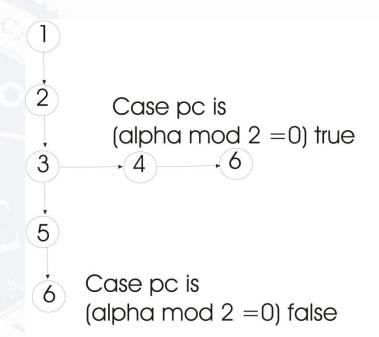
- We can generate symbolic execution tree characterizing the execution paths followed during the symbolic execution.
  - Associate a node with each statement executed.
  - Associate a directed arc connecting the associated nodes with each transition between statements.
  - For IF statement execution, the associated node has two arcs leaving the node which are labeled "T" and "F" for the true and false part, respectively.
  - Associate the complete current execution state, i.e. variable values, statement counter, and pc with each node.

### **Symbolic Execution Tree**

```
1: int Sum(int a, int b, int c)
2: int x := a + b;
3: int y := b + c;
4: int z := x + y - b;
5: return z;
6:
```

### Symbolic Execution Tree

```
1: boolean IsEven(int a)
2: boolean b := False;
3: If (x modulo 2 ==0) then
4: b:=true;
else
5: b:=false;
6: IsEven:=b;
```



### **Symbolic Execution Tree**

```
    Power(int x, int y, int z)
    z := 1;
    u:=1
    while(u ≤ y)
    z:=z*x;
    u:=u+1
    endwh;
```

```
2
       Case pc is
3
       (beta<1 true
       And result z=1
       8
        Case pc is
        (Beta < 2 and beta > = 1 true
        And result z=alpha
        8
 6
```

### **Properties of the Symbolic Execution Tree**

- For each terminal leaf exists a particular non symbolic input.
- The pc associated with any two terminal leaves are distinct.
- Test case generation
  - to execute every statement at least once
  - to include execution of each branch both ways
  - finding input values to reach a particular point in a program

#### Symbolic execution

- Symbolic variables for input variables
- Execute the program symbolically
- Collect symbolic path constraints
- Use constraint solver to generate test inputs for each execution path
- Remaining problem to instantiate the pc with particular values.
- The **pc** specifies **a class of equivalent tests**, and any feasible solution to the constraints (represented by the pc) would be a representative member.
- The symbolic execution also provides expressions describing the program outputs for all inputs in this set.

### Symbolic execution – research-revisited

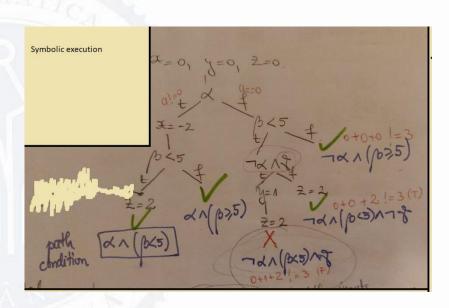
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- PEX
  - https://www.microsoft.com/en
     -us/research/project/pex-and-moles-isolation-and-white-box-unit-testing-for-net/?from=http%3A%2F%2Fresearch.microsoft.com%2Fen-



Symbolic Execution – example -<a href="http://klee.github.io/getting-started/">http://klee.github.io/tutorials/testing-function/</a>

```
// Edit SymbolicExecutionExample.c
void SymbolicExecutionExample(int
a, int b, int c){
  int x=0, y=0, z=0;
  if (a!=0){
      x = -2;
   if (b<5){
      if(!a && c){y=1};
      z=2;
   assert(x+y+z!=3);
```



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### References

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- [CS13] Cristian Cadar and Koushik Sen. Symbolic execution for software testing: Three decades later. Commun. ACM, 56(2):82–90, 2013.





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