

1. System Verification: Introduction

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System Verification (CC4084) 2024/2025

CISTER – U.Porto, Porto, Portugal

<https://fm-dcc.github.io/sv2425>



CISTER - Research Centre in
Real-Time & Embedded
Computing Systems

What are Formal Methods?

Formal methods are **techniques** to
model **complex systems** using
rigorous mathematical models

Specification

Define part of the system
using a modelling
language

Verification

Prove properties.
Show correctness.
Find bugs.

Implementation

Generate correct code.

All formal models are wrong

All formal models are wrong
... but some of them are usefull!

Program verification

- software (code)
- + annotations (logic)
- + some user interaction
- = correctness proof

Program verification

- software (code)
- + annotations (logic)
- + some user interaction
- = correctness proof

SYSTEM verification

- system specification (model)
- + system requirements (logic)
- + some user interaction
- + fixing parameters/scenarios
- = correctness proof

In this course: we will focus on **model-checking**

Contents of the module

- Introduction to model-checking
- CCS: a simple language for concurrency
 - Syntax
 - Semantics
 - Equivalence
 - mCRL2: modelling
- Dynamic logic
 - Syntax
 - Semantics
 - Relation with equivalence
 - mCRL2: verification
- Timed Automata
 - Syntax
 - Semantics (composition, Zeno)
 - Equivalence
 - UPPAAL: modelling
- Temporal logics (LTL/CTL)
 - Syntax
 - Semantics
 - UPPAAL: verification
- Probabilistic and stochastic systems
 - Going probabilistic
 - UPPAAL: monte-carlo

Logistics

Relevant class material and announcements will be posted on the website periodically

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https://fm-dcc.github.io/sv2425
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E-mail

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Office hours (please send an email the day before if you wish to meet):

- *José Proença*: Thursday morning

Assessment will consist of

- 60% – an individual **test** at the end (*época normal*);
- 40% – a **group assignment** with 2 parts involving the use of the mCRL2 and the Uppaal model checkers; and
- 100% – Final (optional) exam during the extra period (*época de recurso*).

What is model-checking?

Check **Requirements** of a **Model**

using **Formal Methods**



$$\mathcal{M}, w \models \phi$$

does the **model**

\mathcal{M}

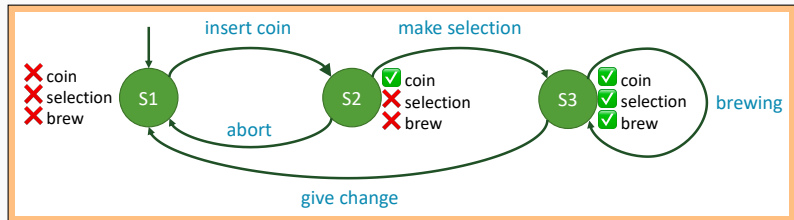
in **state**

w

satisfies the **requirement**

ϕ

Example: coffee machine - the MODEL



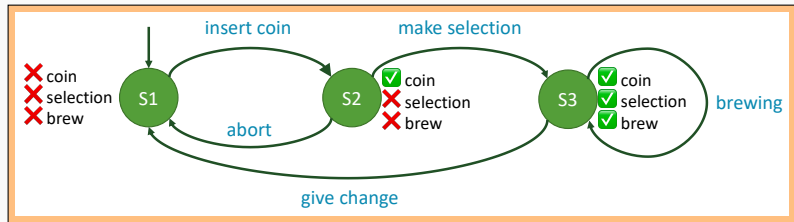
Actions

States

Propositions

Just building the model is often a large contribution

Example: coffee machine - the REQUIREMENTS



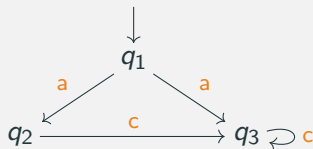
$\mathcal{M}, S2 \models \text{coin}$

means coin holds in state $S2$

$\mathcal{M}, S1 \models [\text{make selection}] \text{selection}$

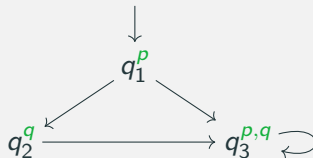
means selection holds in every state reachable with make selection from $S1$

Focus on events



- desired/forbidden sequences of actions
- Process algebra to generate models
- $\mathcal{M}, q_2 \models [a] \text{false}$

Focus on states



- reachable/forbidden states
- Language/Diagram to generate models
- $\mathcal{M}, q_1 \models p$, $\mathcal{M}, q_1 \models F G p$

$$\mathcal{M}, q_2 \models [a] \text{false}$$

- **Models** that satisfy exactly the same **requirements**:
equivalence (e.g. bisimulation, trace equivalence)
- **Models** that satisfy a subset of **requirements**:
inclusion (e.g. simulation, trace inclusion)
- A **model** should only capture the necessary to show its **requirements**.

$$\mathcal{M}, q_2 \models [a] \text{false}$$

- **Real-time:** how long it takes between actions
- **Differential dynamic:** state evolves using differential equations
- **Beliefs:** who knows what
- **Deontic:** obligatory and permitted actions
- **Fuzzy:** other values instead of truth values
- **Probabilistic:** the odds of something occurring
- *Many tools:* mCRL2, UPPAAL, Spin, NuSMV (NuXMV), TLA+, Maude, Storm, CPN (petri nets)