#### Patrice Godefroid

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## **Employment**

October 2006 – present: Partner Researcher, Microsoft Research (Principal Researcher, promoted to "Microsoft Partner" in September 2012).

**December 1994** – **August 2006:** Distinguished Member of Technical Staff, Bell Laboratories (Member of Technical Staff, promoted to "Distinguished MTS" in June 2001).

September 1989 – November 1994: Researcher, Computer Science Department (group of Professor Pierre Wolper), Université de Liège, Belgium.

Work on the ESPRIT project SPEC (3096) Formal Methods and Tools for the Development of Distributed and Real-Time Systems, on the SPPS Belgian Incentive Program Information Technology, and on the ESPRIT project REACT (6021) Building Correct Reactive Systems.

July 1992 – August 1992: Visiting researcher, Computing Science Research Center, AT&T Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, NJ.

## Education

September 1989 – November 1994: Ph.D. in Computer Science, Université de Liège, Belgium. Advisor: Professor Pierre Wolper.

September 1984 – June 1989: Ingénieur Civil Electricien (Informatique) (five-years university degree in Electrical Engineering, Computer Science elective), Université de Liège, Belgium.

### Honors

- h-index = 60, 20,000+ citations (see https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=1bFun-AAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao)
- CAV Award 2014 for my work on partial-order reduction (with Doron Peled, Antti Valmari and Pierre Wolper).
- Promoted to Microsoft Partner, September 2012.
- LICS 2011 Test-Of-Time Award for my LICS'1991 paper "A Partial Approach to Model Checking" (with Pierre Wolper).
- HVC 2009 award for "the most promising contribution to fields of software and hardware verification and test in the last five years" for my PLDI'2005 paper "DART: Directed Automated Random Testing" (with Nils Klarlund and Koushik Sen).
- 2008 Médaille d'or du mérite scientifique Gustave Trasenster de l'AILg (University of Liège Alumni Award).
- Promoted to Distinguished Member of Technical Staff, Bell Laboratories, June 2001 (for my work on VeriSoft).
- A revised version of my PhD thesis "Partial-Order Methods for the Verification of Concurrent Systems An Approach to the State-Explosion Problem" is published by Springer-Verlag, as volume 1032 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science, January 1996. (ISBN 3-540-60761-7)
- My undergraduate graduating dissertation "Les modèles ordre-partiel du parallélisme (Partial-Order Models for Concurrency)" received a 1990 IBM Belgium Award for "best graduating dissertation contributing to computer science in Belgium".

## Professional Activities

- Referee for international conferences (AAAI, ASE, ATVA, CAV, CONCUR, EMSOFT, FM, FME, FMICS, FORTE, FSE, HVC, ICALP, ICSE, ISSTA, LICS, PASTE, PLDI, POPL, PSTV, RV, SAS, SPIN, TACAS, VMCAI, etc.).
- Referee for professional journals (Journal of the ACM, FML, FMSD, Information and Computation, Information Processing Letters, STTT, TCS, TOCL, TOPLAS, TSE, etc.).
- Referee and panelist for research-funding agencies (NSF, NSERC Canada, INRIA France, Science Foundation Ireland, NWO Netherlands, Israel Science Foundation, Swiss NSF, Icelandic Research Fund, etc.).
- Member of the program committee of international conferences and workshops (ICSE-SEIP'2022, SAS'2021, SPIN'2021, VSTTE'2020, PLDI'2020, SPIN'2019, CAV'2019, SPIN'2018, VSTTE'2018, RV'2017, SPIN'2017, NFM'2017, RV'2016, PLDI'2016, ICSE'2016 V2025, CAV'2015, PLDI'2015 (ERC), TACAS'2015, HVC'2014, ATVA'2014, ISSTA'2014, TACAS'2014, RV'2013, SPIN'2013, ICALP'2013, PLDI'2012, FM'2012, TAP'2012, TACAS'2012, POPL'2012 (ERC), ATVA'2011, RV'2011, NFM'2011, SPIN'2010, ATVA'2010, RV'2010, TAP'2010, MoChArt'2010, MBT'2010, PLDI'2010 (ERC), VMCAI'2010, HVC'2009, TACAS'2009, ISSTA'2009, ASE'2008, FMICS'2008,

LICS'2008, TACAS'2008, RT'2007, FMICS'2007, SPIN'2007, CAV'2007, ISSTA'2007, VM-CAI'2007, LICS'2006, CAV'2006, VMCAI'2006, SPIN'2005 (PC chair), CAV'2005, TACAS'2005, ISSTA'2004, SPIN'2004, CONCUR'2003, TACAS'2003, ICSE'2003, SPIN'2003, POPL'2002, TACAS'2002, FMICS'2002, CAV'2001, CAV'2000, FMSP'2000, CAV'98, etc.).

- Over 50 lectures given at international conferences and seminars.
- Invited keynote speaker at international conferences and workshops (HCSS'2019, TCE'2015, SEFM'2014, ITC'2014, SAS'2014, SEFM'2014, Highlights'2013, FSTTCS'2012, TAP&TOOLS'2011, CSTVA'2011, ISSTA'2010, DMCD'2010, SPIN'2009, MBT'2009, SBMF'2008, RT'2007, IFM'2005, TIME'2005, PASTE'2004, etc.).
- Invited lecturer at international summer schools (Marktoberdorf'2015, Marktoberdorf'2013, Verified Software Shanghai 2012, SAT/SMT'2012, QMC'2012, Vienna Winter School 2012, LASER'2011, SE & Verification Russia 2011, SAT/SMT'2011, Beijing Model Checking 2010, TECS Week 2010, MOVEP'2006, etc.).
- Principal Investigator with Dennis Dams and Kedar Namjoshi of the \$640,000 NSF/NASA HDCP project "Analysis Techniques and Tools for Building Robust Software" (NSF CCR-0341658), September 2003 – September 2007.
- Author or co-author of 30+ US patents issued or pending.

## Research Overview

My main research area during the last 32 years has been *software model checking* in a broad sense. Here are some main themes. (I also worked on many other smaller projects on other topics that cannot be summarized here – please see my list of publications for more information on those.)

Partial-Order Reduction. In 1988, I started doing research under the supervision of Professor Pierre Wolper on what is now known as partial-order reduction. Partial-order reduction (POR) denotes a family of algorithmic techniques for pruning the state spaces of concurrent reactive programs in such a way that parts of the state space that are pruned away are guaranteed not to contain error states of a specific type, such as deadlocks. POR can considerably speed up verification by model checking, and is nowadays implemented in many model checkers. With my advisor Pierre Wolper and collaborators Gerard Holzmann and Didier Pirottin, we pioneered the development of POR, together with other prominent contributors such as Doron Peled and Antti Valmari. My own work on POR culminated in January 1996 with the publication of my PhD thesis in Springer's Lecture Notes in Computer Science series. This work was the co-recipient of the CAV 2014 Award.

Software Model Checking via Systematic Testing: VeriSoft. A year or so after joining Bell Labs in 1994, I started working on software model checking, that is, how to broaden the scope of model checking from abstract software systems (specified in modeling languages) to concrete software systems (described using programming languages). In 1996, I designed and implemented a first version of VeriSoft, the first model checker for analyzing software written in mainstream programming languages such as C and C++. The main idea behind of VeriSoft is simple: like a traditional model checker computes the product of finite-state machines described in some modeling language, VeriSoft computes the product of operating-system (Unix-like) processes described in any programming language. Several technical innovations made this possible: the use of a run-time

scheduler to systematically drive process executions, a construct to simulate nondeterminism at run-time, and the use of partial-order reduction to make a search in the state space of concurrent OS processes tractable even without storing any intermediate states in memory. Many of these features have now been adopted in other software model checkers (like Java PathFinder, CMC, CHESS, etc.).

From 1996 to 2001, I worked mostly on developing VeriSoft further. With several Bell Labs colleagues, we investigated many extensions, described in several published papers. We also started applying VeriSoft to check the correctness of various software applications inside Lucent Technologies. After several successful applications, VeriSoft was also considered in 1999 for a Lucent-funded start-up. Working with Lucent's venture-capitalist team was an enlightening experience. That same year, I taught a course (mostly on VeriSoft) at Stanford University hosted by David Dill, another valuable experience (teaching a new course takes a lot of time!). Meanwhile, VeriSoft was gaining traction in some development and testing groups where its use contributed to finding several expensive, customer-visible bugs in various Lucent products. Since 1999, VeriSoft has also been publicly available outside Lucent and has been licensed to hundreds of users in industry and academia in more than 25 countries. In 2001, I was promoted to "Distinguished Member of the Technical Staff" of Bell Labs for essentially my work on VeriSoft and its successful applications in Lucent.

Software Model Checking via May/Must Abstractions. Around 2000, another approach to software model checking started to emerge: the static approach. Unlike VeriSoft, static software model checkers parse the source code of the software to be checked, compute a conservative abstraction of the original code, and then perform model checking on this abstraction. One of the pioneering projects in that area is SLAM, a static software model checker for C code, developed at Microsoft Research originally by Tom Ball and Sriram Rajamani. From 2001 to 2004, with Glenn Bruns, Radha Jagadeesan and Michael Huth, we developed a new framework for static software model checking that uses may/must abstractions instead of may-only conservative abstractions. With such abstractions, both proofs and counterexamples (bugs) are now guaranteed to be sound, by construction. We also showed that verification results can sometimes be more precise with generalized model checking, which checks whether there exists a concretization of an abstraction satisfying a temporal property. From a theoretical point of view, generalized model checking is an interesting problem since it generalizes both model checking (when the abstraction is complete) and satisfiability (when the abstraction is completely unknown), probably the two most studied problems related to temporal logic and verification. From a practical point of view, our work in this area helps explain the foundation of static software model checking.

Automating Software Testing using Program Analysis: DART and SMART. In 2004, I started working with renewed energy on how to extend the VeriSoft approach (aka software model checking via systematic testing) to deal with data-driven applications (after a first attempt described in a PLDI 1998 paper). With Nils Klarlund and Koushik Sen (both funded by my NSF grant with my Bell Labs colleagues Dennis Dams and Kedar Namjoshi), we implemented a first version of *Directed Automated Random Testing*, or DART for short, a new approach to automate testing that combines three main techniques: (1) automated interface extraction from source code, (2) random testing at that interface, and (3) dynamic test generation to direct executions along alternative program paths. The main strength of DART is that testing can be performed completely automatically on any program that compiles, as there is no need to manually write any test driver or harness code. Also, whenever a symbolic expression cannot be generated for an expression involving some input,

the concrete value of that input can be used to simplify this expression, which allows dynamic test generation to drive executions through program statements that purely-static test generation cannot handle.

A DART directed search attempts to sweep through all the feasible execution paths of a program using dynamic test generation: the program under test is first executed on some random or well-formed input, symbolic constraints on inputs are gathered at conditional branches during that run, and then a constraint solver is used to generate variants of the previous inputs in order to steer the next execution of the program towards an alternative program branch. This process is repeated until all (in practice, many) feasible program paths of the program are executed, while detecting various types of errors using run-time checking tools, like Purify, for instance. DART can thus be viewed as one way of combining static (interface extraction, symbolic execution) and dynamic (testing, run-time checking) program analysis with model-checking techniques (systematic state-space exploration).

Obviously, systematically executing all feasible program paths does not scale to large, realistic programs. In 2006, I developed a variant of the DART search algorithm that performs dynamic test generation compositionally. This new algorithm, dubbed SMART, eliminates path explosion due to interprocedural (interblock) paths: the number of whole execution paths becomes linear in the number of intraprocedural paths, instead of being possibly exponential. Moreover, for programs whose conditional statements can all be driven using symbolic execution, this efficiency gain is obtained without losing any precision. A SMART search is key to make the DART approach (i.e., systematic dynamic test generation) scalable to large programs if the goal is to achieve full path coverage (i.e., verification).

The DART technique, also called *dynamic test generation*, *execution-generated tests*, or *concolic testing*, has revolutionized automatic test generation, with thousands of citations to our work and dozens of academic and industrial tools implementing this approach. This work was the recipient of the HVC 2009 Award.

Whitebox Fuzzing for Security Testing: SAGE. In 2006, I joined Microsoft Research and started working on the "killer app" for DART, namely fuzzing. Fuzzing, or fuzz testing, is the process of finding security vulnerabilities in input-parsing code by repeatedly testing the parser with modified, or fuzzed, inputs. With Michael Levin and several other Microsoft colleagues including (then-intern) David Molnar, we started developing SAGE, the first whitebox fuzzer for security testing. Whitebox fuzzing extends DART from unit testing to security testing of large programs. SAGE performs dynamic symbolic execution at the x86 binary level, and implements several optimizations that are crucial for dealing with huge execution traces with hundreds of millions of machine instructions, in order to scale to large file parsers embedded in applications with millions of lines of code, like Microsoft Excel or PowerPoint. SAGE also pioneered the use of search heuristics based on code coverage for fuzzing purposes.

Since 2008, SAGE has been running in production for over 1,000 machine-years, automatically fuzzing hundreds of applications. This is the largest computational usage ever for any Satisfiability-Modul-Theories (SMT) solver according to the authors of the Z3 SMT solver (also from Microsoft Research), with around 10 billion constraints processed to date. During all this fuzzing, SAGE found many new security vulnerabilities (buffer overflows) in hundreds of Windows parsers and Office applications, including image processors, media players, file decoders, and document parsers. Notably,

SAGE found roughly one third of all the bugs discovered by file fuzzing during the development of Microsoft's Windows 7, saving (many) millions of dollars by avoiding expensive security patches for nearly a billion PCs worldwide. In 2012, I was promoted to "Microsoft Partner" essentially for my work on SAGE and its successful applications in Microsoft.

Today, whitebox fuzzing has been adopted in many other security-testing tools, and has inspired numerous variants (such as greybox fuzzing and hybrid fuzzing) and extensions. Our seminal work on whitebox fuzzing (first published in 2008) was credited to introducing the "fuzzing" problem to the program analysis, software engineering, and security academic communities, with thousands of citations to our work.

Fuzzing in the Cloud: Project Springfield. In 2015, with my Microsoft Research colleague David Molnar, I co-founded Project Springfield, the *first commercial cloud fuzzing service*. Customers who subscribe to this cloud service can submit fuzzing jobs targeting their own software. Fuzzing jobs are processed by creating many virtual machines in the cloud and by running different fuzzing tools (including SAGE) and configurations on each of these machines. Fuzzing results (bugs) are continually collected by the service and post-processed for analysis, triage and prioritization, with final results available directly to customers on a secured website.

Project Springfield operated as a "virtual start-up" (or "special project") inside Microsoft Research. I served as its CTO for 2 years. Project Springfield was renamed *Microsoft Security Risk Detection* in 2017. Later, the project gradually re-focused on its core technical contributions, in contrast to its initial business aspirations, and evolved into a cloud fuzzing platform called *OneFuzz*, which became open-source in 2020.

Fuzzing the Cloud: RESTler. In 2017, with my Microsoft Research colleague Marina Polishchuk and intern Vaggelis Atlidakis, we started developing RESTler, the first stateful REST API fuzzing tool for automatically testing cloud services through their REST APIs and finding security and reliability bugs in these services. For a given cloud service with an OpenAPI/Swagger specification, RESTler analyzes its entire specification, and then generates and executes tests that exercise the service through its REST API. RESTler intelligently infers producer-consumer dependencies among request types from the API specification. During testing, it checks for specific classes of bugs and dynamically learns how the service behaves from prior service responses. This intelligence allows RESTler to explore deeper service states reachable only through specific request sequences (hence the term "stateful") and to find more bugs.

In 2020, RESTler became open-source, and its usage has been steadily growing since, both inside and outside Microsoft. Inside Microsoft, RESTler has found 100s of new bugs in Microsoft Azure, Office365 and Bing services, including severe critical bugs. At the time of this writing, RESTler is still under active development.

## Publications: Refereed Conferences

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- D. Gonzalez, T. Zimmermann, P. Godefroid, and M. Schafer. Anomalicious: Automated Detection of Anomalous and Potentially Malicious Commits on GitHub. In *Proceedings of ICSE'2021 (International Conference on Software Engineering), Software-Engineering-in-Practice Track*, Madrid/virtual, May 2021.
- P. Godefroid, B.-Y. Huang, and M. Polishchuk. Intelligent REST API Data Fuzzing. In Proceedings of ESEC/FSE'2020 (ACM Joint European Software Engineering Conference and Symposium on the Foundations of Software Engineering), Sacramento/virtual, November 2020.
- V. Atlidakis, P. Godefroid, and M. Polishchuk. Checking Security Properties of Cloud Service REST APIs. In *Proceedings of ICST'2020 (IEEE International Conference on Software Testing, Verification and Validation)*, Porto/virtual, March 2020.
- W. Lam, P. Godefroid, S. Nath, A. Santhiar, and S. Thummalapenta. Root Causing Flaky Tests in a Large-Scale Industrial Setting. In *Proceedings of ISSTA'2019 (International Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis)*, pages 101–111, Beijing, July 2019.
- V. Atlidakis, P. Godefroid, and M. Polishchuk. RESTler: Stateful REST API Fuzzing. In *Proceedings of ICSE'2019 (41st International Conference on Software Engineering)*, pages 748–758, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, 2019.
- K. Bottinger, P. Godefroid, and R. Singh. Deep Reinforcement Fuzzing. In *Proceedings of DLS'2018 (1st Deep Learning and Security Workshop)*, San Francisco, May 2018.
- P. Godefroid, H. Peleg, and R. Singh. Learn&Fuzz: Machine Learning for Input Fuzzing. In 32nd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Automated Software Engineering (ASE 2017), November 2017.
- M. Christakis, P. Emmisberger, P. Godefroid, and P. Muller. A General Framework for Dynamic Stub Injection. In *Proceedings of ICSE'2017 (39th International Conference on Software Engineering*, pages 586–596, Buenos Aires, May 2017.
- P. Godefroid. Between Testing and Verification: Dynamic Software Model Checking. In Proceedings of Marktoberdorf'2015 (Dependable Software Systems Engineering, NATO Science for Peace and Security Series, IOS Press 2016), pages 99–116, Marktoberdorf, August 2015.
- M. Christakis and P. Godefroid. IC-Cut: A Compositional Search Strategy for Dynamic Test Generation. In *Proceedings of SPIN'2015 (22nd International SPIN Symposium on Model Checking of Software)*, volume 9232 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, pages 300–318, Stellenbosch, August 2015. Springer-Verlag.
- N. Lopez, N. Bjorner, P. Godefroid, K. Jayaraman, and G. Varghese. Checking Beliefs in Dynamic Networks. In *Proceedings of NSDI'2015 (12th USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation)*, Oakland, May 2015.
- M. Christakis and P. Godefroid. Proving Memory Safety of the ANI Windows Image Parser using Compositional Exhaustive Testing. To appear in the Proceedings of VMCAI'2015 (International Conference on Verification, Model Checking and Abstract Interpretation), Lecture Notes in Computer Science, Mumbai, January 2015. Springer-Verlag.

- P. Godefroid. Micro Execution. In *Proceedings of ICSE'2014 (International Conference on Software Engineering)*, pages 539–549, Hyderabad, June 2014. ACM.
- P. Godefroid. May/Must Abstraction-Based Software Model Checking for Sound Verification and Falsification. In *Proceedings of Marktoberdorf'2013 (NATO Advanced Study Institute on Software Systems Safety)*, Marktoberdorf, August 2013.
- E. Bounimova, P. Godefroid, and D. Molnar. Billions and Billions of Constraints: Whitebox Fuzz Testing in Production. In *Proceedings of ICSE'2013 (35th International Conference on Software Engineering)*, pages 122–131, San Francisco, May 2013. ACM.
- P. Godefroid and M. Yannakakis. Analysis of Boolean Programs. In *Proceedings of TACAS'2013 (Tools and Algorithms for the Construction and Analysis of Systems)*, volume 7795 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, pages 214–229, Rome, March 2013. Springer-Verlag.
- P. Godefroid. Test Generation Using Symbolic Execution. In *Proceedings of FSTTCS'2012* (IARCS Annual Conference on Foundations of Software Technology and Theoretical Computer Science), pages 24–33, Hyderabad, December 2012.
- P. Godefroid and S. K. Lahiri. From Program to Logic: An Introduction. In *Proceedings of the LASER'2011 Summer School*, volume 7682 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, pages 31–44, Elba, December 2012. Springer-Verlag.
- P. Godefroid and A. Taly. Automated Synthesis of Symbolic Instruction Encodings from I/O Samples. In *PLDI'2012 (ACM SIGPLAN 2012 Conference on Programming Language Design and Implementation)*, pages 441–452, Beijing, June 2012.
- P. Godefroid, S. K. Lahiri, and C. Rubio-Gonzalez. Statically Validating Must Summaries for Incremental Compositional Dynamic Test Generation. In *Proceedings of SAS'2011 (18th International Static Analysis Symposium)*, volume 6887 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, pages 112–128, Venice, September 2011. Springer-Verlag.
- P. Godefroid and D. Luchaup. Automatic Partial Loop Summarization in Dynamic Test Generation. In *Proceedings of ISSTA'2011 (ACM SIGSOFT International Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis)*, pages 23–33, Toronto, July 2011.
- P. Godefroid. Higher-Order Test Generation. In *PLDI'2011 (ACM SIGPLAN 2011 Conference on Programming Language Design and Implementation)*, pages 258–269, San Jose, June 2011.
- C. Cadar, P. Godefroid, S. Khurshid, C.S. Pasareanu, K. Sen, N.Tillmann, and W. Visser. Symbolic Execution for Software Testing in Practice Preliminary Assessment. In *ICSE'2011*, Honolulu, May 2011.
- P. Godefroid and J. Kinder. Proving Memory Safety of Floating-Point Computations by Combining Static and Dynamic Program Analysis. In *Proceedings of ISSTA'2010 (ACM SIGSOFT International Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis)*, pages 1–11, Trento, July 2010.

- P. Godefroid, A.V. Nori, S.K. Rajamani, and S.D. Tetali. Compositional May-Must Program Analysis: Unleashing The Power of Alternation. In *Proceedings of POPL'2010 (37th ACM Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages)*, pages 43–55, Madrid, January 2010.
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- P. Godefroid and N. Piterman. LTL Generalized Model Checking Revisited. In *Proceedings of VMCAI'2009 (10th Conference on Verification, Model Checking and Abstract Interpretation)*, Lecture Notes in Computer Science, Savannah, January 2009. Springer-Verlag.
- K. Etessami and P. Godefroid. An Abort-Aware Model of Transactional Programming. In *Proceedings of VMCAI'2009 (10th Conference on Verification, Model Checking and Abstract Interpretation)*, Lecture Notes in Computer Science, Savannah, January 2009. Springer-Verlag.
- P. Godefroid, M.Y. Levin, and D. Molnar. Active Property Checking. In *Proceedings of EMSOFT'2008 (8th Annual ACM & IEEE Conference on Embedded Software)*, pages 207–216, Atlanta, October 2008. ACM Press.
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- P. Godefroid and N. Nagappan. Concurrency at Microsoft An Exploratory Survey. In  $(EC)^2$  (CAV 2008 Workshop on "Exploiting Concurrency Efficiently and Correctly"), July 2008.
- P. Godefroid, A. Kiezun, and M. Y. Levin. Grammar-based Whitebox Fuzzing. In *Proceedings of PLDI'2008 (ACM SIGPLAN 2008 Conference on Programming Language Design and Implementation)*, pages 206–215, Tucson, June 2008.
- P. Godefroid, M.Y. Levin, and D. Molnar. Automated Whitebox Fuzz Testing. In *Proceedings of NDSS'2008 (Network and Distributed Systems Security)*, pages 151–166, San Diego, February 2008.
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- P. Godefroid and M. Huth. Model Checking Vs. Generalized Model Checking: Semantic Minimizations for Temporal Logics. In *Proceedings of LICS'2005 (20th IEEE Symposium on Logic in Computer Science)*, pages 158–167, Chicago, June 2005.
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# Note

Most of the publications listed above are also available from my web-page

https://patricegodefroid.github.io/

where they can also be found grouped by themes.