

# The Dafny Programming Language and Static Verifier

Stefan Zetzsche

Amazon Web Services

June 29, 2023

# 1 Introduction

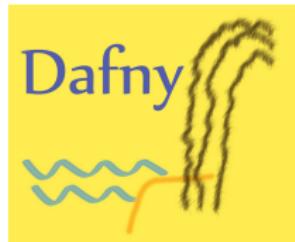
# What is Dafny?

Live Demo

# What is Dafny?

```
0  function fib(n: nat): nat {
1      if n  $\leq$  1 then
2          n
3      else
4          fib(n - 1) + fib(n - 2)
5  }
6
7  method ComputeFib(n: nat) returns (b: nat)
8      ensures b = fib(n)
9  {
10     var c := 1;
11     b := 0;
12     for i := 0 to n
13         invariant b = fib(i)  $\wedge$  c = fib(i + 1)
14     {
15         b, c := c, b + c;
16     }
17 }
```

# Dafny and Rustan Leino



# Dafny at Amazon: Authorization



```
0  permit(principal, action, resource)
1  when {
2      resource has owner ∧ resource.owner = principal
3  };
```

---

<https://github.com/cedar-policy>

[https://www.amazon.science/blog/  
how-we-built-cedar-with-automated-reasoning-and-differential-testing](https://www.amazon.science/blog/how-we-built-cedar-with-automated-reasoning-and-differential-testing)

# Dafny at Amazon: Crypto Tools

Cryptography is hard to do safely and correctly.

---

<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/aws-crypto-tools/index.html>

<https://github.com/aws/aws-encryption-sdk-dafny>

<https://aws.amazon.com/blogs/security/>  
aws-security-profile-cryptography-edition-valerie-lambert-senior-software-development-engineer

# Table of Contents

Introduction

Dafny as a Programming Language

Dafny as a Proof Assistant

Dafny for the Verification of Programs

Dafny at PPLV

## 2 Dafny as a Programming Language

# Dafny as a Programming Language

Dafny is a mature language that allows you to:

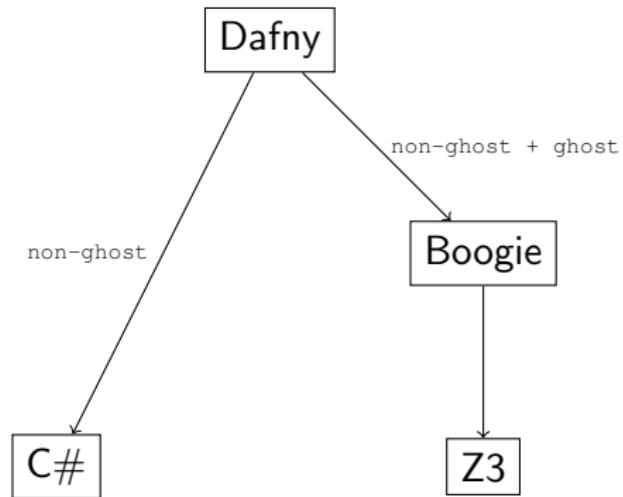
- ▶ write functional/imperative/OO programs
- ▶ compile programs
- ▶ execute programs
- ▶ interoperate with other languages

# Multi-Paradigms

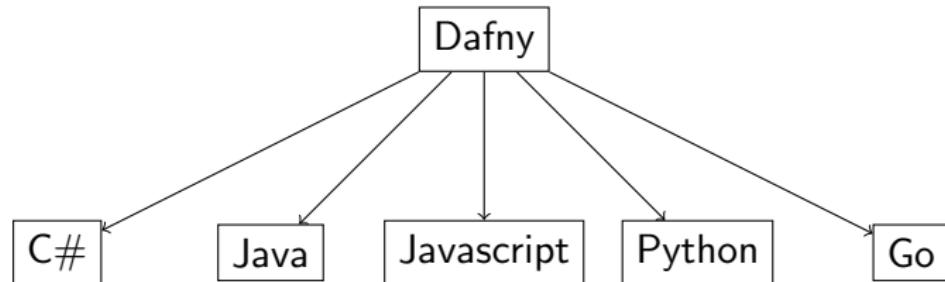
Dafny supports multi-paradigm concepts:

- ▶ inductive datatypes
- ▶ while-loops
- ▶ lambda expressions
- ▶ higher-order functions
- ▶ classes with mutable state
- ▶ polymorphism

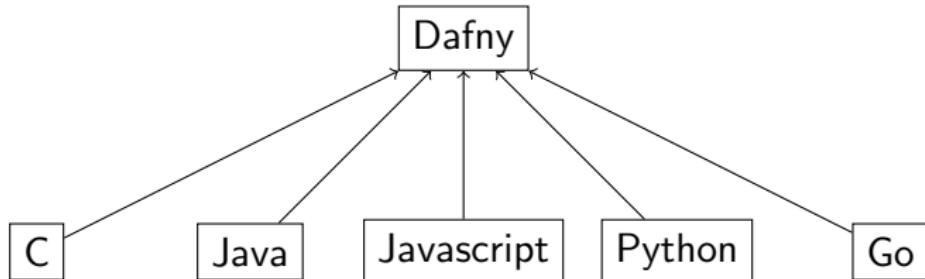
# Pipeline



# Compilation



## Interoperate with {:extern}



## 2.1 Functional Programming

# Functions, Constants, Predicates

```
0 function FunctionName(param1: Type1, param2: Type2): Type3 {  
1     expression  
2 }  
3  
4 const constantName: Type := expression;  
5  
6 predicate predicateName(param1: Type1, param2: Type2) {  
7     booleanExpression  
8 }
```

# Functions as In/Out Parameters

```
0  function Apply(f: int -> int, n: int): int {
1      f(n)
2  }
3
4  function ApplyPartial(f: int -> int -> int, n: int): int -> int {
5      f(n)
6  }
```

# Recursive Functions

```
0  function Factorial(n: nat): nat {
1      if n = 0 then 1 else n * Factorial(n-1)
2  }
```

# Inductive Datatypes

```
0 datatype list = Nil | Cons(head: bool, tail: list)
1
2 function Conjunction(xs: list): bool {
3     match xs
4     case Nil  $\Rightarrow$  true
5     case Cons(head, tail)  $\Rightarrow$  head  $\wedge$  Conjunction(tail)
6 }
```

# Polymorphism

```
0 datatype list<T> = Nil | Cons(head: T, tail: list)
1
2 function Length<T>(xs: list<T>): nat {
3     match xs
4         case Nil  $\Rightarrow$  0
5         case Cons(_, tail)  $\Rightarrow$  1 + Length(tail)
6 }
```

# Immutable Collection Types

- ▶ Sequences

**seq**(length, i ⇒ f(i))

- ▶ Sets

**set** x: T | p(x) • f(x)

- ▶ Maps

**map** x: T | p(x) • f(x)

- ▶ Multisets

## 2.2 Imperative Programming

# Methods

```
0 method MethodName<T>(arg1: T, arg2: string) {
1     print(arg1);
2     print(arg2);
3 }
```

# Methods

```
0 method Call() returns (o: int) {  
1     MethodName("Hello,", "World\n");  
2     o := FunctionName(42);  
3 }
```

# Conditional

```
0  method IfElse()  {
1      if booleanExpression {
2          // ...
3      } else {
4          // ...
5      }
6  }
```

# While Loop

```
0 method WhileLoop() {
1     while booleanExpression {
2         // ...
3     }
4 }
```

# For Loop

```
0 method ForLoop() {
1     for variable := startExpression to stopExpression {
2         // ...
3     }
4 }
```

# Arrays

```
0  method Aliasing() {
1      var A := new int[100];
2      var B := A;
3  }
```

# Reading Arrays

```
0  function Read(A: array<bool>): bool
1    reads A
2  {
3    if A.Length = 0 then
4      false
5    else
6      A[0]
7  }
```

# Modifying Arrays

```
0 method Modify(A: array<bool>, b: bool)
1     modifies A
2 {
3     if A.Length = 0 {
4     } else {
5         A[0] := b;
6     }
7 }
```

## 2.3 Object-Oriented Programming

# Classes

```
0  class C {
1      var mutableField: int;
2      const immutableField: int
3
4      constructor(i: int, j: int) {
5          immutableField := i;
6          mutableField := j;
7      }
8  }
9
10 method M() {
11     var o := new C(0, 1);
12 }
```

# Functions and Methods

```
0  class C {
1      var mutableField: int;
2
3      function Get(): int
4          reads this
5      {
6          mutableField
7      }
8
9      method Set(i: int)
10         modifies this
11     {
12         mutableField := i;
13     }
14 }
```

# Inheritance

```
0 trait T {  
1     method Print()  
2 }  
3  
4 class C extends T {  
5     method Print() {  
6         print("Stefan");  
7     }  
8 }  
9  
10 class D extends T {  
11     method Print() {  
12         print("Zetzsche");  
13     }  
14 }
```

### 3 Dafny as a Proof Assistant

## 3.1 Formal Mathematics

# Type Symbols

0 **type** NaturalNumber(00, =)

## Constant Symbols

```
0 ghost const Zero: NaturalNumber
```

## Function Symbols

```
0 ghost function Successor(n: NaturalNumber): NaturalNumber
```

## Predicate Symbols

```
0 ghost predicate Equal(n: NaturalNumber, m: NaturalNumber)
```

# Axioms

```
0  lemma {:axiom} Reflexive()
1  ensures ∀ n: NaturalNumber • Equal(n, n)
```

# Axioms and Quantification

```
0  lemma {: axiom} Reflexive(n: NaturalNumber)
1    ensures Equal(n, n)
```

# Lemma

```
0 lemma {:axiom} Reflexive(n: NaturalNumber)
1   ensures Equal(n, n)
2
3 lemma AboutZero()
4   ensures ∃ n: NaturalNumber • Equal(n, Zero)
5   {
6     // ...
7 }
```

# Lemma

```
0 lemma {:axiom} Reflexive(n: NaturalNumber)
1   ensures Equal(n, n)
2
3 lemma AboutZero()
4   ensures ∃ n: NaturalNumber • Equal(n, Zero)
5 {
6   Reflexive(Zero);
7 }
```

## Second Order and Excluded Middle

```
0 lemma SecondOrder()
1   ensures ∀ p: int -> bool • ∀ x: int • p(x) ∨ ¬p(x)
2 { }
```

# Higher Order

```
0 lemma ThirdOrder()
1   ensures ∀ P: (int -> bool) -> bool,   p: int -> bool • P(p) ∨ ¬P(p)
2   { }
```

## 3.2 Structured Proofs

# Proof Structure

```
0 lemma ProofStructure()
1     requires Assumptions
2     ensures Goal
3 {
4     assert Goal by {
5         Assumptions
6     }
7 }
```

# Conjunction

```
0 lemma ProofOfConjunction() {
1     assert A ∧ B by {
2         assume A;
3         assume B;
4     }
5 }
```

# Disjunction

```
0 lemma ProofOfDisjunction1() {
1     assert A ∨ B by {
2         assume A;
3     }
4 }
5
6 lemma ProofOfDisjunction2() {
7     assert A ∨ B by {
8         assume B;
9     }
10 }
```

# Implication

```
0 lemma ProofOfImplication() {
1   assert A ==> B by {
2     if A {
3       assume B;
4     }
5   }
6 }
```

# Equivalence

```
0 lemma ProofOfEquivalence() {
1     assert A  $\iff$  B by {
2         assume A  $\implies$  B;
3         assume B  $\implies$  A;
4     }
5 }
```

# Contradiction

```
0 lemma ProofByContradiction() {
1   assert B by {
2     assume ¬B ==> false;
3   }
4 }
```

# Product

```
0 lemma ProofOfProduct() {
1   assert A ==> (B ∧ C) by {
2     assume A ==> B;
3     assume A ==> C;
4   }
5 }
```

# Coproduct

```
0 lemma ProofOfCoproduct() {
1   assert (A ∨ B) ⇒ C by {
2     assume A ⇒ C;
3     assume B ⇒ C;
4   }
5 }
```

# Calculations 1

```
0 lemma UnitIsUnique<T(!new)>(bop: (T, T) -> T, unit1: T, unit2: T)
1   requires ∀ x • bop(x, unit2) = x
2   requires ∀ x • bop(unit1, x) = x
3   ensures unit1 = unit2
4   {
5     calc {
6       unit1;
7     =
8       bop(unit1, unit2);
9     =
10      unit2;
11    }
12 }
```

# Calculations 2

```
0 lemma UnitIsUnique<T(!new)>(bop: (T, T) -> T, unit1: T, unit2: T)
1   requires A1:  $\forall x \bullet bop(x, \text{unit2}) = x$ 
2   requires A2:  $\forall x \bullet bop(\text{unit1}, x) = x$ 
3   ensures unit1 = unit2
4   {
5     calc {
6       unit1;
7       = { reveal A1; }
8       bop(unit1, unit2);
9       = { reveal A2; }
10      unit2;
11    }
12  }
```

# Calculations 3

```
0 lemma UnitIsUnique<T(!new)>(bop: (T, T) -> T, unit1: T, unit2: T)
1   requires A1:  $\forall x \bullet bop(x, \text{unit2}) = x$ 
2   requires A2:  $\forall x \bullet bop(\text{unit1}, x) = x$ 
3   ensures unit1 = unit2
4   {
5     assert unit1 = bop(unit1, unit2) by {
6       reveal A1;
7     }
8     assert bop(unit1, unit2) = unit2 by {
9       reveal A2;
10    }
11 }
```

# Non-Deterministic Choice

```
0 lemma ProofUsingExistential<T>(p: T -> bool, q: T -> bool)
1   requires ∀ x • p(x) ⇒ q(x)
2   ensures ∃ x • q(x)
3 {
4   assume ∃ x • p(x);
5   var c :| p(c);
6 }
```

## 4 Dafny for the Verification of Programs

## 4.1 Independent Verification of Functional Programs

# Conditional

```
0  function Abs(x: int): int {
1      if x < 0 then
2          -x
3      else
4          x
5  }
6
7  lemma AbsPositive(x: int)
8      ensures Abs(x)  $\geq$  0
9  {
10     if x < 0 {
11         assert -x > 0;
12     } else {
13         assert x  $\geq$  0;
14     }
15 }
```

# Recursion and Induction

```
0 datatype list<T> = Nil | Cons(head: T, tail: list)
1
2 function Length<T>(xs: list): nat {
3     match xs
4         case Nil  $\Rightarrow$  0
5         case Cons(head, tail)  $\Rightarrow$  1 + Length(tail)
6 }
7
8 function Append<T>(xs: list, ys: list): list {
9     match xs
10        case Nil  $\Rightarrow$  ys
11        case Cons(head, tail)  $\Rightarrow$  Cons(head, Append(tail, ys))
12 }
13
14 lemma AppendLength<T>(xs: list, ys: list)
15     ensures Length(Append(xs, ys)) = Length(xs) + Length(ys)
16 {
17     match xs
18         case Nil  $\Rightarrow$ 
19         case Cons(head, tail)  $\Rightarrow$  AppendLength(tail, ys);
20 }
```

## 4.2 Dependent Verification of Functional Programs

# Pre- and Postconditions 1

```
0 lemma AppendLength<T>(xs: list, ys: list)
1   ensures Length(Append(xs, ys)) = Length(xs) + Length(ys)
2 {
3   match xs
4   case Nil  $\Rightarrow$ 
5   case Cons(head, tail)  $\Rightarrow$  AppendLength(tail, ys);
6 }
```

## Pre- and Postconditions 2

```
0 function Append<T>(xs: list, ys: list): list
1   ensures Length(Append(xs, ys)) = Length(xs) + Length(ys)
2 {
3   match xs
4     case Nil  $\Rightarrow$  ys
5     case Cons(head, tail)  $\Rightarrow$  Cons(head, Append(tail, ys))
6 }
```

## Pre- and Postconditions 3

```
0 function Append<T>(xs: list, ys: list): list
1   requires Assumption
2   ensures Length(Append(xs, ys)) = Length(xs) + Length(ys)
3   ensures Property
4 {
5     assert Property by {
6       ProofOfPropertyViaAssumption();
7     }
8     match xs
9     case Nil  $\Rightarrow$  ys
10    case Cons(head, tail)  $\Rightarrow$  Cons(head, Append(tail, ys))
11 }
```

## Pre- and Postconditions 4

```
0 function Append<T>(xs: list, ys: list): list
1   ensures Length(Append(xs, ys)) = Length(xs) + Length(ys)
2   // ∧ ∀ zs • Append(Append(xs, ys), zs) = Append(xs, Append(ys, zs))
3 {
4   match xs
5   case Nil ⇒ ys
6   case Cons(head, tail) ⇒ Cons(head, Append(tail, ys))
7 }
```

# Termination 1

```
0  function Sum(n: int): int {  
1      if n ≤ 0 then 0 else Sum(n-1)  
2  }
```

## Termination 2

```
0 function Sum(n: int): int
1     decreases n
2     {
3         if n ≤ 0 then 0 else Sum(n-1)
4     }
```

## Termination 3

```
0 function SumUpTo(c: int := 0, n: int): int
1     decreases n - c
2     {
3         if c  $\geq$  n then
4             n
5         else
6             c + SumUpTo(c + 1, n)
7     }
```

## 4.3 Verification of Imperative Programs

# Hoare Logic

$$[P]S[Q] \quad \text{iff} \quad \text{wp}(S, Q) \Rightarrow P$$

```
0  method S()
1    requires P()
2    ensures Q()
```

# Skip

$$\overline{[P] \text{ skip } [P]}$$

```
0 method Skip()
1     requires P()
2     ensures P()
3 { }
```

# Assignment

$$\overline{[P[E/x]] \ x := E \ [P]}$$

```
0 method Assignment<T> (x: T) returns (y: T)
1   requires P(E(x))
2   ensures P(y)
3   {
4     y := E(x);
5 }
```

# Assignment

$$\overline{[P[E/x]] \ x := E \ [P]}$$

```
0  function E(x: nat): nat {
1      x + 1
2  }
3
4  predicate P(x: nat) {
5      x % 2 = 0
6  }
7
8  method Assignment(x: nat) returns (y: nat)
9      requires P(E(x))
10     ensures P(y)
11     {
12         y := E(x);
13     }
```

# Composition

$$\frac{[P]S[Q] \quad , \quad [Q]T[R]}{[P] \ S; T \ [R]}$$

```
0  method S()
1      requires P()
2      ensures Q()
3
4  method T()
5      requires Q()
6      ensures R()
7
8  method Composition()
9      requires P()
10     ensures R()
11  {
12      S();
13      T();
14  }
```

# Consequence

$$\frac{P_1 \rightarrow P_2 \quad , \quad [P_2] \; S \; [Q_2] \quad , \quad Q_2 \rightarrow Q_1}{[P_1] \; S \; [Q_1]}$$

```
0  lemma Implications()
1      ensures P1() ==> P2()
2      ensures Q2() ==> Q1()
3
4  method S()
5      requires P2()
6      ensures Q2()
7
8  method Consequence()
9      requires P1()
10     ensures Q1()
11 {
12     Implications();
13     S();
14 }
```

# Loops (Partial)

$$\frac{\{P \wedge B\} \ S \ \{P\}}{\{P\} \text{ while } B \text{ do } S \ \{\neg B \wedge P\}}$$

```
0 method S()
1   requires P()  $\wedge$  B()
2   ensures P()
3
4 method WhileLoop()
5   requires P()
6   ensures  $\neg B() \wedge P()$ 
7   {
8     while B()
9       invariant P()
10    {
11      S();
12    }
13 }
```

# Loops (Partial)

$$\frac{\{P \wedge B\} \ S \ \{P\}}{\{P\} \text{ while } B \text{ do } S \ \{\neg B \wedge P\}}$$

```
0 method Times(n: nat, a: nat) returns (b: nat)
1   ensures b = n * a
2   {
3     b := 0 ;
4     var i := 0;
5     while i < n
6       invariant b == i * a && i <= n
7       {
8         b := b + a;
9         i := i + 1;
10      }
11  }
```

## 5 Dafny at PPLV

## 5.1 Use Case Example

# Big Step Semantics

## Syntax

$$c \in \text{cmd} ::= \text{Inc} \mid c_0; c_1 \mid c^*$$

## Semantics

$$\frac{t = s + 1}{s \xrightarrow{\text{Inc}} t} \quad \frac{s \xrightarrow{c_0} s' \quad , \quad s' \xrightarrow{c_1} t}{s \xrightarrow{c_0; c_1} t} \quad \frac{t = s}{s \xrightarrow{c^*} t} \quad \frac{s \xrightarrow{c} s' \quad , \quad s' \xrightarrow{c^*} t}{s \xrightarrow{c^*} t}$$

---

$\rightarrow \subseteq \text{state} \times \text{cmd} \times \text{state}$ ,       $\text{state} = \text{int}$

# Big Step Semantics in Dafny

Live Demo

# Big Step Semantics in Dafny

```
0  datatype cmd = Inc | Seq(cmd, cmd) | Repeat(cmd)
1
2  type state = int
3
4  least predicate BigStep(s: state, c: cmd, t: state) {
5      match c
6          case Inc  $\Rightarrow$ 
7              t = s + 1
8          case Seq(c0, c1)  $\Rightarrow$ 
9               $\exists$  s' • BigStep(s, c0, s')  $\wedge$  BigStep(s', c1, t)
10         case Repeat(c0)  $\Rightarrow$ 
11             (t = s)  $\vee$ 
12             ( $\exists$  s' • BigStep(s, c0, s')  $\wedge$  BigStep(s', Repeat(c0), t))
13     }
14
15  least lemma Increasing(s: state, c: cmd, t: state)
16      requires BigStep(s, c, t)
17      ensures s  $\leq$  t
18  { }
```

## 5.2 Opportunities

# Open Source

The screenshot shows the GitHub profile for the Dafny programming language. At the top, there's a pinned repository for 'dafny' (Public) which is described as a verification-aware programming language. Below this, there are sections for 'Repos' and 'People'. The 'Repos' section lists several repositories: 'dafny' (Public), 'blog' (Public), 'ide-vscode' (Public), 'libraries' (Public), and 'dafny.lang methods' (Private). The 'Top languages' section shows Dafny, C#, JavaScript, Shell, and PHP.

Dafny is a verification-aware programming language

People

Top languages

dafny · Public

Dafny is a verification-aware programming language

C# ⭐ 2.1k 📂 219

Repos

Find a repository...

Type Language Sort

dafny · Public

Dafny is a verification-aware programming language

C# ⭐ 2.111 📂 219 📈 850 📇 102 Updated 1 hour ago

blog · Public

The Dafny blog

JavaScript ⭐ 0 📂 1 📈 0 📇 1 Updated 2 days ago

ide-vscode · Public

VSCODE IDE Integration for Dafny

TypeScript ⭐ 16 📈 MIT 📂 15 📇 52 📇 2 Updated 2 weeks ago

libraries · Public

Libraries useful for Dafny programs

Dafny ⭐ 34 📂 24 📈 30 📇 18 Updated 3 weeks ago

dafny.lang methods · Private

<https://github.com/dafny-lang/dafny>

# Formal Reasoning at AWS



## Formal Reasoning About the Security of Amazon Web Services

Byron Cook<sup>1,2,✉</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Amazon Web Services, Seattle, USA

byron@amazon.com

<sup>2</sup> University College London, London, UK

**Abstract.** We report on the development and use of formal verification tools within Amazon Web Services (AWS) to increase the security assurance of its cloud infrastructure and to help customers secure themselves. We also discuss some remaining challenges that could inspire future research in the community.

### 1 Introduction

Amazon Web Services (AWS) is a provider of cloud services, meaning on-demand access to IT resources via the Internet. AWS adoption is widespread, with over a million active users, 100+ services, and \$5.1 billion in revenue during the last quarter of 2017. Adoption is also rapidly growing, with revenue regularly increasing between 40–45% year-over-year.

The challenge for AWS in the coming years will be to accelerate the development of its functionality while simultaneously increasing the level of security offered to customers. In 2011, AWS released over 80 significant services and features. In 2012, the number was nearly 160; in 2013, 280; in 2014, 516; in 2015, 722; in 2016, 1,017. Last year the number was 1,430. At the same time, AWS is increasingly being used for a broad range of security-critical computational workloads.

Formal automated reasoning is one of the investments that AWS is making in order to facilitate continued simultaneous growth in both functionality and security. In this paper we report on the development and use of formal verification tools within AWS to increase the level of security assurance of its products. Toward that goal we describe work within AWS that uses formal verification to raise the level of security assurance of its products. We also discuss the use of formal reasoning tools by externally-facing products that help customers secure themselves. We close with a discussion about areas where we see that future research could contribute further impact.

**Related Work.** In this work we discuss efforts to make formal verification applicable to use-cases related to cloud security at AWS. For information on previous work within AWS to show functional correctness of some key distributed algorithms, see [43]. Other providers of cloud services also use formal verification to establish security properties, e.g. [23, 34].

© The Author(s) 2018.  
H. Chockler and G. Wüschner (Eds.): CAV 2018, LNCS 10981, pp. 38–47, 2018.  
[https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-96145-3\\_3](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-96145-3_3)



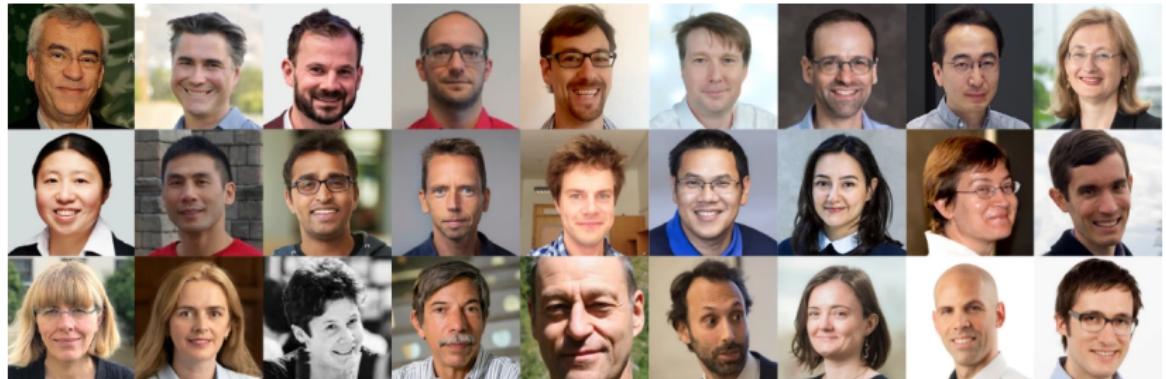
Amazon Science  
@AmazonScience

Amazon researchers and engineers gathered for the annual Amazon Formal Reasoning Enthusiasts (FReE) workshop to discuss formal methods tools that improve quality of Amazon software and customer experience. 🙌



10:23 pm · 20 Oct 2022

# Amazon Research Awards



---

[https://www.amazon.science/research-awards/program-updates/  
79-amazon-research-awards-recipients-announced](https://www.amazon.science/research-awards/program-updates/79-amazon-research-awards-recipients-announced)