Lab: Code Verification and Z3 Theorem Prover

(Week 7)

Yulei Sui

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Quiz-2, Exercise-2 and Assignment-2

- Quiz-2 with 25 questions (5 points), **due date: 23:59 Tuesday, Week 7**
  - Logical formula and predicate logic
  - Z3's knowledge and translation rules
- Lab-Exercise-2 (5 points), **due date: 23:59 Tuesday, Week 7**
  - **Goal:** Manually translate code into z3 formulas/constraints and verify the assertions embedded in the code.
  - **Specification:** `https://github.com/SVF-tools/Software-Security-Analysis/wiki/Lab-Exercise-2`
  - **SVF Z3 APIs:** `https://github.com/SVF-tools/Software-Security-Analysis/wiki/SVF-Z3-API`
- Assignment-2 (25 points) **due date: 23:59 Tuesday, Week 8**
  - **Goal:** automatically perform assertion-based verification for code using static symbolic execution.
  - **Specification:** `https://github.com/SVF-tools/Software-Security-Analysis/wiki/Assignment-2`

Methods to Be Implemented

You need to implement the following four functions in `Assignment-2.cpp`:

- `SSE::reachability`
- `SSE::collectAndTranslatePath`
- `SSE::handleCall`
- `SSE::handleRet`
- `SSE::handleNonBranch`
- `SSE::handleBranch`
- The required implementation parts are indicated with TODO comments and you only need to fill up the code template if a method is partially implemented.

Software Verification Competition (SV-COMP)

Optional for Interested Students.

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  - Increase the **visibility and credits** that tool developers receive. This encourages the development of verifiers in research and provides a forum for students to share their work.
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- **Competition website**: `https://sv-comp.sosy-lab.org/`

How does SV-COMP work?

- **Verification tasks**:
  - A verification task consists of a **C program** and a **specification**. A verification run is a **non-interactive execution** of a competition candidate on a single verification task, in order to check if the following statement is correct: “The program satisfies the specification.”

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  - The **result** of a verification run is a triple **(ANSWER, WITNESS, TIME)**. ANSWER is one of the following outcomes:

TRUE + Witness	The specification is satisfied and a correctness witness is produced.
FALSE + Witness	The specification is violated and and a violation witness is produced.
UNKNOWN	The tool cannot decide the problem or terminates by a tool crash, time-out, or out-of-memory.

How does SV-COMP work?

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- **Scoring**:

Points	Reported Result	Description
0	UNKNOWN	Failure to compute a verification result.
+1	FALSE correct	Error found violation witness was confirmed.
-16	FALSE incorrect	Error reported for a correct program.
+2	TRUE correct	Correctness reported and validated.
-32	TRUE incorrect	Correctness reported but error was present.

SVF-SVC in SV-COMP 2025

- In the 2025 competition, **SVF-SVC** participated in SV-COMP for the first time.
  - We built a Python wrapper around SVF which translated C files into an appropriate input format for SVF.
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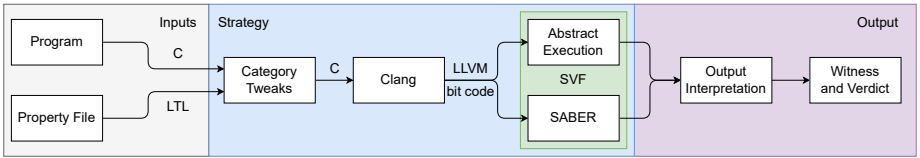

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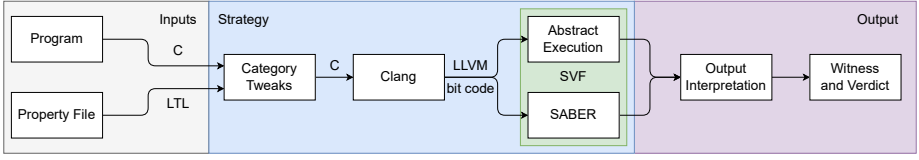

- SVF-SVC qualified for the competition and our short tooling paper was published in TACAS 2025:
  `https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-90660-2_21`

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  - Reduce the number of incorrect assertions rather than UNKNOWN outputs made to address the harsh penalties associated with incorrect results.
  - Expand SVF-SVC to compete in more categories.
  - Better utilise our time given the competition constraints.
  - Optimize or add to existing algorithms to improve overall performance.

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- **Expected deadlines**:
  - October 2025: Tool registration.
  - November 2025: Final tool submission.
  - December 2025: Paper submission.
  - January 2026: Paper notification and final edits.

SVF-SVC in SV-COMP 2026

Why should I participate?

- The competition provides an excellent opportunity to apply the skills developed in this course and work on a real-world application.
- The competition allows the opportunity to make a research publication which is greatly beneficial for any future research work or career in academia.
- The competition involves working as part of a team on a software project which looks excellent on your resume when applying for computer science, software engineering or cybersecurity related roles.
- You will improve your ability to program, design algorithms, interface with real-world systems and collaborate and work with a team.

SVF-SVC in SV-COMP 2026

How can I participate?

- Further details about the competition will be given in future weeks.
- Completing COMP6131 will give you all the prerequisite knowledge required for the competition.
- **Expected Timeline**:
  - Term 2 2025: Continue learning the foundations from COMP6131.
  - Term 2-3 break 2025: Organise the team, plan out the project, begin implementation.
  - Term 3: Continue and complete implementation.
  - Summer break 2025-26: Receive competition results.
- We are looking for students who can make some commitment in the Term 2-3 break and/or Term 3.
- Contact me now or by the end of term 2 at cameron.mcgowan@unsw.edu.au to let me know if you are interested in participating this year or would like further details.