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Formal Methods

An Appetizer

- Uses program graphs to represent the control structure of programs
- Class-tested and suitable for advanced undergraduate and graduate courses
- Appendices include a guide to realization using F#
- Online tool at FormalMethods.dk allows students to experiment with most chapters

This textbook is an introduction to the use of formal methods ranging from semantics of key programming constructs to techniques for the analysis and verification of programs. The authors use program graphs as the mechanism for representing the control structure of programs in order to find a balance between generality and conceptual complexity. The early chapters on program graphs and the Guarded Commands language are sufficient introduction for most readers to then enjoy a plug-and-play approach to the remaining chapters. These explain formal methods for analysing the behaviour of programs in various ways ranging from verification, via program analysis and language-based security, to model checking. The remaining chapters present language extensions with procedures and concurrency and cover their semantics. The book is suitable for advanced undergraduate and graduate courses in software development, and the text is supported throughout with exercises of varying grades of difficulty. The authors have developed an online learning environment that allows students to create examples beyond those covered in the main text, and in the book appendices they present programming projects aimed at implementing central parts of the development using the functional language F#.

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