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Hardware and Software: Verification and Testing

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Revised Selected Papers

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Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at the Haifa Verification Conference 2011, the 7th in the series of annual conferences dedicated to advancing the state of the art and state of the practice in verification and testing of hardware and software. HVC provides a forum for researchers and practitioners from both academia and industry to share their work, exchange ideas, and discuss challenges and future directions of testing and verification for hardware, software, and hybrid systems.

Academic research in system verification and testing is roughly divided into two major paradigms: formal verification and dynamic verification (testing). Within each paradigm, algorithms, techniques and even terminology may differ considerably between hardware-related solutions and software-related solutions. However, the common underlying goal of verification, across paradigms and system types, is to gain confidence in a system meeting its functional as well as its non-functional requirements. HVC is the only conference that brings together researchers and practitioners from all verification and testing sub-fields, thereby encouraging the migration of methods and ideas among domains. One key asset of HVC is the strong participation from industry. HVC provides a platform for the academic and industrial research communities to mix and mingle, thereby creating new opportunities for collaborative research. We are particularly proud to say that the papers selected for presentation at HVC 2011 covered a wide range of sub-fields related to testing and verification applicable to software, hardware, and hybrid systems, thus stimulating discussion within the wider verification community.

From a total of 43 submissions, the Program Committee selected 15 regular papers for full presentation, three tools papers for short presentation, and four posters for the student poster session on day one of the conference. HVC 2011 was organized in five technical sessions devoted to topics including synthesis, formal verification, software quality, testing, and coverage. The best paper selection jury considered both the quality of the technical paper as well as the presentation at the conference. The best paper prize was awarded to Marijn Heule, Oliver Kullmann, Siert Wieringa, and Armin Biere for their paper entitled "Cube and Conquer: Guiding CDCL SAT Solvers by Lookaheads."

Granted since 2007, the HVC award recognizes the most promising academic and industrial contribution to the fields of testing and software and hardware verification from the last five years. The HVC 2011 award went to Daniel Kroening from Oxford for his contribution of CBMC, a bounded model checker for C programs. CBMC is the first and most influential industrial-strength verification engine for a non-academic programming language, and hence a major milestone in automated verification. To date, CBMC is the only verification engine that supports the full functionality of C, including precise modeling of floating-point

operations and bit-precise arithmetic. CBMC promotes the industrial adoption of formal software verification more than any other tool in existence and is therefore a significant contribution to the verification community.

The conference was hosted by IBM at the IBM Research Labs in Haifa. We would like to thank all who made HVC 2011 run smoothly and gratefully acknowledge the invaluable support by many on the IBM administrative team, without which this event could not meet its goals and match the high standards established over the years. We would like to thank the Program Committee, the HVC Award Committee, the Best Paper Prize Jury, the authors of all submissions to HVC 2011 and, of course, the presenters of the papers and posters accepted. All these contributed toward making HVC 2011 another success in the HVC conference series. We would also like to thank the tutorial presenters Avner Engel, Ofer Strichman, and Rachel Tzoref-Brill for an informative first day prior to the main conference. Special thanks are due to our invited speakers who enriched the program with insightful and inspiring presentations: Kathryn Kranen, Jasper Design Automation, Ben Liblit, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Klaus-Dieter Schubert, IBM Deutschland Research and Development GmbH, and Armin Biere, Johannes Kepler University, Linz.

Finally, we would like to thank our sponsors, IBM, Cadence, Mentor Graphics, and Jasper Design Automation, for their generous support in preparation and throughout the event.

July 2012   Kerstin Eder
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