Programming Languages and Systems

29th European Symposium on Programming, ESOP 2020 **Held as Part of the European Joint Conferences** on Theory and Practice of Software, ETAPS 2020 Dublin, Ireland, April 25-30, 2020, Proceedings



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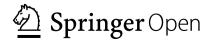
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ETAPS Foreword

Welcome to the 23rd ETAPS! This is the first time that ETAPS took place in Ireland in its beautiful capital Dublin.

ETAPS 2020 was the 23rd instance of the European Joint Conferences on Theory and Practice of Software. ETAPS is an annual federated conference established in 1998, and consists of four conferences: ESOP, FASE, FoSSaCS, and TACAS. Each conference has its own Program Committee (PC) and its own Steering Committee (SC). The conferences cover various aspects of software systems, ranging from theoretical computer science to foundations of programming language developments, analysis tools, and formal approaches to software engineering. Organizing these conferences in a coherent, highly synchronized conference program enables researchers to participate in an exciting event, having the possibility to meet many colleagues working in different directions in the field, and to easily attend talks of different conferences. On the weekend before the main conference, numerous satellite workshops took place that attracted many researchers from all over the globe. Also, for the second time, an ETAPS Mentoring Workshop was organized. This workshop is intended to help students early in the program with advice on research, career, and life in the fields of computing that are covered by the ETAPS conference.

ETAPS 2020 received 424 submissions in total, 129 of which were accepted, yielding an overall acceptance rate of 30.4%. I thank all the authors for their interest in ETAPS, all the reviewers for their reviewing efforts, the PC members for their contributions, and in particular the PC (co-)chairs for their hard work in running this entire intensive process. Last but not least, my congratulations to all authors of the accepted papers!

ETAPS 2020 featured the unifying invited speakers Scott Smolka (Stony Brook University) and Jane Hillston (University of Edinburgh) and the conference-specific invited speakers (ESOP) Işıl Dillig (University of Texas at Austin) and (FASE) Willem Visser (Stellenbosch University). Invited tutorials were provided by Erika Ábrahám (RWTH Aachen University) on the analysis of hybrid systems and Madhusudan Parthasarathy (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) on combining Machine Learning and Formal Methods. On behalf of the ETAPS 2020 attendants, I thank all the speakers for their inspiring and interesting talks!

ETAPS 2020 took place in Dublin, Ireland, and was organized by the University of Limerick and Lero. ETAPS 2020 is further supported by the following associations and societies: ETAPS e.V., EATCS (European Association for Theoretical Computer Science), EAPLS (European Association for Programming Languages and Systems), and EASST (European Association of Software Science and Technology). The local organization team consisted of Tiziana Margaria (general chair, UL and Lero), Vasileios Koutavas (Lero@UCD), Anila Mjeda (Lero@UL), Anthony Ventresque (Lero@UCD), and Petros Stratis (Easy Conferences).

The ETAPS Steering Committee (SC) consists of an Executive Board, and representatives of the individual ETAPS conferences, as well as representatives of EATCS, EAPLS, and EASST. The Executive Board consists of Holger Hermanns (Saarbrücken), Marieke Huisman (chair, Twente), Joost-Pieter Katoen (Aachen and Twente), Jan Kofron (Prague), Gerald Lüttgen (Bamberg), Tarmo Uustalu (Reykjavik and Tallinn), Caterina Urban (Inria, Paris), and Lenore Zuck (Chicago).

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank all speakers, attendants, organizers of the satellite workshops, and Springer for their support. I hope you all enjoyed ETAPS 2020. Finally, a big thanks to Tiziana and her local organization team for all their enormous efforts enabling a fantastic ETAPS in Dublin!

February 2020

Marieke Huisman ETAPS SC Chair ETAPS e.V. President

Preface

Welcome to the European Symposium on Programming (ESOP 2020)! The 29th edition of this conference series was initially planned to be held April 27–30, 2020, in Dublin, Ireland, but was then moved to fall 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. ESOP is one of the European Joint Conferences on Theory and Practice of Software (ETAPS). It is devoted to fundamental issues in the specification, design, analysis, and implementation of programming languages and systems.

This volume contains 27 papers, which the Program Committee (PC) selected among 87 submissions. Each submission received between three and six reviews. After an author response period, the papers were discussed electronically among the PC members and external reviewers. The one paper for which the PC chair had a conflict of interest was kindly handled by Sasa Misailovic.

Submissions authored by a PC member were held to slightly higher standards: they received at least four reviews, had an external reviewer, and were accepted only if they were not involved in comparisons of relative merit with other submissions. We accepted two out of four PC submissions.

The final program includes a keynote by Işıl Dillig on "Formal Methods for Evolving Database Applications."

Any conference depends first and foremost on the quality of its submissions. I would like to thank all the authors who submitted their work to ESOP 2020! I am truly impressed by the members of the PC. They produced insightful and constructive reviews, contributed very actively to the online discussions, and were extremely helpful. It was an honor to work with all of you! I am also grateful to the external reviewers, who provided their expert opinions and helped tremendously to reach well-informed decisions. I would like to thank everybody who contributed to the organization of ESOP 2020, especially the ESOP 2020 Steering Committee and its chair Peter Thiemann as well as the ETAPS 2020 Steering Committee and its chair Marieke Huisman, who provided help and guidance on numerous occasions. Finally, I'd like to thank Linard Arquint and Vasileios Koutavas for their help with the proceedings.

February 2020 Peter Müller

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Formal Methods for Evolving Database Applications (Abstract of Keynote Talk)

Işıl Dillig

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Many database applications undergo significant schema changes during their life cycle due to performance or maintainability reasons. Examples of such schema changes include denormalization, splitting a single table into multiple tables, and consolidating multiple tables into a single table. Even though such schema refactorings are quite common in practice, programmers need to spend significant time and effort to re-implement parts of the code base that are affected by the schema change. Furthermore, it is not uncommon to introduce bugs during this code transformation process.

In this talk, I will present our recent work on using formal methods to simplify the schema refactoring process for evolving database applications. Specifically, I will first propose a definition of equivalence between database applications that operate over different schemas. Building on this definition, I will then present a fully automated technique for proving equivalence between a pair of applications. Our verification technique is capable of automatically synthesizing bisimulation invariants between two database applications and uses the inferred bisimulation invariant to automatically prove equivalence.

In the next part of the talk, I will explain how to leverage this verification technique to completely automate the code migration process. Specifically, given an original database application P over schema S and a new schema S', I will discuss a practical program synthesis technique that can be used to generate a new program P' over schema S' such that P and P' are provably equivalent. In particular, I will first present a method for generating a program sketch of the new version; then, I will describe a novel synthesis algorithm that efficiently explores the space of all programs that are in the search space of the generated sketch.

Finally, I will describe experimental results on a suite of schema refactoring benchmarks, including real-world database applications written in Ruby-on-Rails. I will also outline remaining challenges in this area and motivate future research directions relevant to research in programming languages and formal methods.

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