

Variations on Constants

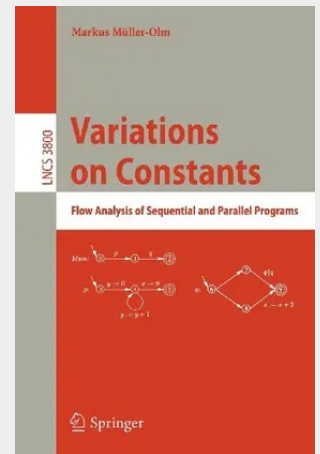
Flow Analysis of Sequential and Parallel Programs

Program analysis is concerned with techniques that automatically determine run-time properties of given programs prior to run-time. It is used for validation in order to ensure that programs serve their intended purpose and in further processing for efficient execution such as in optimizing compilers. Optimal program analysis provides a guarantee about the precision of the computed results.

This monograph, a revised version of the author's habilitation thesis, focusses on optimal flow analysis of sequential and parallel programs. It studies algorithmic properties of various versions of the well-known constant-propagation problem. In order to come to grips with the variants considered, it combines techniques from different areas such as linear algebra, computable ring theory, abstract interpretation, program verification, complexity theory, etc. Combination of techniques is the key to further progress in automatic analysis and constant-propagation allows us to illustrate this point in a theoretical study.

After a general overview, the monograph consists of three essentially self-contained parts that can be read independently of each other. These parts study: a hierarchy of constants in sequential programs, inherent limits of flow analysis of parallel programs, and how to overcome these limits by abandoning a classic atomic execution assumption.

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53,49 €

49,99 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9783540453857

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-3-540-45385-7

Verlag: Springer

Erscheinungstermin: 02.10.2006

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: 1. Auflage 2006

Serie: Programming and Software Engineering

Produktform: Kartoniert

Gewicht: 306 g

Seiten: 177

Format (B x H): 155 x 235 mm

