Ben Wooding (Google Scholar)

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Background

As of November 2023, I am a research fellow with an EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship for the topic "Reliable AI-Enabled Design of Cyber-Physical Systems" mentored by Dr Abolfazl Lavaei.

Previously, I was a PhD student in the School of Computing at Newcastle University, United Kingdom supervised by Dr Sadegh Soudjani - I was awarded an EPSRC Studentship (EP/R51309X/1) in October 2019. My research focused on the intersection of formal methods in computer science and control theory applied to power system frequency regulation. In 2019, I completed an integrated Masters in Computing for Computer Science (Security and Resilience) with 1st Class Honours also at Newcastle University. For the project and dissertation I received 92%.

I have contributed to the international academic community with published works, program committee memberships, conference paper and journal paper reviews, and conference presentations. I was also a website chair for the VARS2021 Workshop, a part of CPS-IoT week.

At Newcastle University, I spent 4 years as the chair of AMBER, I have given multiple internal research presentations, and assisted widely by teaching as a demonstrator and marking. I have experience with supervising BSc, MSc and PhD students. Alongside these I have been co-lead of the research communication and dissemination in the HyCoDeV Lab.

Academic Degrees

Oct.19-Sep.23 **PhD** in Formal Methods of Cyber-Physical Systems, School of Computing, Newcastle University, UK Thesis: Model-Based and Data-Driven Formal Synthesis of Power Systems

Oct.15-Sep.19 **M.Comp (Hons.)** in Computer Science (Security and Resilience), Newcastle University, UK Dissertations: (i) Using Formal Methods and Proof to Verify a CANDO Epilepsy Medical Device (2019) (ii) Modelling Computer Security Principles as a Strategy Game (2018)

Research Interests

Trustworthy Autonomy & AI, Cyber-Physical Systems, Formal Learning & Control, Compositional Formal Methods, Data-Driven Optimisation

Honours and Awards

Nov.23-Nov.25 EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship

Oct.19-Mar.23 EPSRC Studentship (EP/R51309X/1)

Oct.15-Sep.20 Newcastle University Sports Scholarship

Publications: Journal

- [J1] A.S. Laino, B. Wooding, S. Soudjani, R. Davenport, "Logic-Based Robustness for Resilience of Water Resource Recovery Facilities (WRRFs)", under submission, 2023
- [J2] **B. Wooding**, A. Lavaei, S. Soudjani, "Formal Control for the New England 39-Bus Test System: An Assume-Guarantee Contract Approach", under submission to IEEE Transactions on Power Systems (TPWRS), 2023
- [J3] M. Kazemi*, R. Majumdar, M. Salamati*, S. Soudjani, **B. Wooding***, "Data-Driven Abstraction-Based Controller Synthesis", under revision in Nonlinear Analysis: Hybrid Systems (NAHS), 2022 (*contributed equally)

Publications: Book Chapter

- [B1] B. Wooding, V. Vahidinisab, and S. Soudjani, "Cyber-Physical Smart Homes/Buildings", accepted Elsvier chapter, 2023
- [B2] B. Wooding, V. Vahidinisab, S. Soudjani, "Operation and control of a population of active buildings at network level", Active Building Energy Systems: Operation and Control, 2021
- [B3] B. Wooding, V. Vahidinisab, M. Kazemi, S. Soudjani, "Control and management of active buildings", Active Building Energy Systems: Operation and Control, 2021

Publications: Conference

- [C1] **B. Wooding**, A. Lavaei, V. Vahidinisab, and S. Soudjani, "Robust Simulation Functions with Disturbance Refinement", accepted to European Control Conference (ECC), 2023
- [C2] S. Bogomolov, J. Fitzgerald, FF. Foldager, C. Gamble, PG. Larsen, K. Pierce, P. Stankaitis, **B.Wooding**, "Tuning Robotti: the machine-assisted exploration of parameter spaces in multi-models of a cyber-physical system", 18th International Overture Workshop, 2021 (authors in alphabetical order)
- [C3] A. Abate, H. Blom, N. Cauchi, J. Delicaris, A. Hartmanns, M. Khaled, A. Lavaei, C. Pilch, A. Remke, S. Schupp, F. Shmarov, S. Soudjani, A. Vinod, B. Wooding, M. Zamani, and P. Zuliani, "ARCH-COMP20 Category Report: Stochastic Models", "7th International Workshop on Applied Verification of Continuous and Hybrid Systems (ARCH20)", 2020 (authors in alphabetical order)
- [C4] **B. Wooding**, V. Vahidinisab, S. Soudjani, "Formal Controller Synthesis for Frequency Regulation Utilising Electric Vehicles", Smart Energy Systems and Technologies (SEST), 2020

Teaching Experiences (Demonstrating and Marking)

Cloud Computing; Engineering for AI; Research Methods; Computer Architecture; Software Engineering; Software Verification; Algorithm Design and Analysis; Building Systems for People; Understanding Programming Languages; Group Project in Data Science; Development and Operation of Systems.

Supervision Experiences

- 7 BSc Projects, 5 MSc Projects, 1 PhD Project (see publication [J1])

Academic Services: Program Committees

- Website Chair for Verification of Autonomous & Robotic Systems Workshop at CPS-IoT Week 2022
- Repeatability Program Committee for Hybrid Systems: Computation and Control 2020, 2021
- Repeatability Program Committee for IFAC Conference on Analysis and Design of Hybrid Systems 2021
- Artifact Evaluation Program Committee for Formal Modeling and Analysis of Timed Systems 2023

Academic Services: Membership

2024 IEEE Member

2023 IEEE Student Membership

Academic Services: Reviewing Activities

- Journals: IEEE TCST, IEEE Access, Elsevier European Journal of Control
- Book Chapters: Active Building Energy Systems: Operation and Control
- Conferences: ACM HSCC, IEEE ECC, IEEE CCTA, IFAC ADHS, ATVA, ACM/IEEE ICCPS, CAV, CAADCPS, ISoLA

Conference Presentation

[Jun. 23] 21st European Control Conference (ECC), Bucharest, Romania.

[Sep. 20] 3rd International Conference on Smart Energy Systems and Technologies (SEST), Istanbul, Turkey. [Virtual]

Relevant Courses Taken

During PhD: Smart Grids and Applications of Computational Intelligence; Applied Probability; Differential Equations; Systems and Control; Signals and Communication

During MComp: Machine Learning; Big Data Analytics; Distributed Algorithms; System Evaluation; System Validation; System Verification Technologies; System and Network Security; Cryptography; Reliability and Fault Tolerance; High Integrity Software Development; The Challenge of Dependable Systems.

References

available on LinkedIn or upon request