

# CREST Tutorial

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**crest**

*automatic test generation tool for C*

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CREST is an **automatic test generation tool for C**

It works by inserting instrumentation code (using [CIL](#)) into a target program to perform symbolic execution concurrently with the concrete execution. The generated symbolic constraints are solved (using [Yices](#)) to generate input that drive the test execution down new, unexplored program paths.

CREST currently reasons symbolically only about **linear, integer arithmetic**. CREST should be usable on any modern Linux system. It is usable on recent Mac OS X versions, as well, although some small modifications are needed for the code to build.

For further building and usage information, see the [README](#) file. You may also want to check out the [FAQ](#).

Further questions? Contact Jacob Burnim (jburnim at cs dot berkeley dot edu) or e-mail the CREST-users mailing list (CREST-users at googlegroups.com).

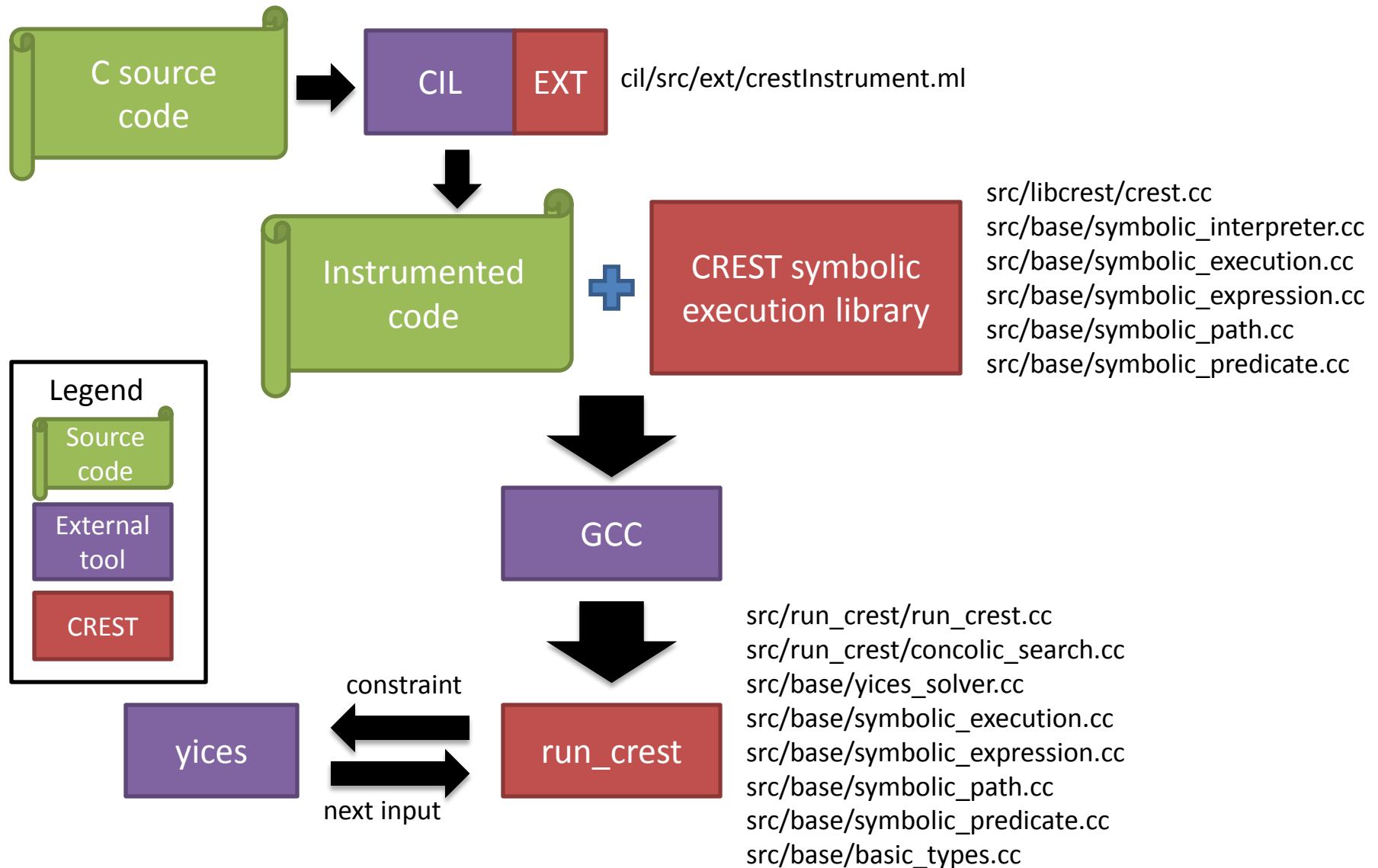
A [short paper](#) and [tech report](#) about some of the search strategies in CREST are available at the homepage of [Jacob Burnim](#).

**News:** CREST 0.1.1 is now available. It can be downloaded from the Downloads section (or the menu bar on the right). This is a bug fix release -- the biggest change is a fix for incorrect instrumentation for functions returning structures by value.

# CREST

- CREST is a concolic testing tool for C programs
  - Generate test inputs automatically
  - Execute target under test on generated test inputs
  - Explore all possible execution paths of a target systematically
- CREST is an open-source re-implementation of CUTE
  - mainly written in C++
    - CREST's instrumentation is implemented as a module of CIL(C Intermediate Language) written in Ocaml

# Overview of CREST code



# 4 Main Steps of Concolic Testing

1. Instrumentation of a target program
  - To insert probes to build symbolic path formula
2. Transform a constructed symbolic path formula to SMT-compatible format
  - SMT solvers can solve simple formula only
3. Select one branch condition to negate
  - Core technique impacting both effectiveness and efficiency
4. Invoking SMT solvers on the SPF SMT formula
  - Selection of a SMT solver and proper configuration parameters

Preprocessor of Concolic Testing: CIL and Ocaml

Back-end Engine of Concolic Testing: SMT solver and API Application in CREST

Real-world Concolic Testing 1: Memory model and CFG algorithm

Real-world Concolic Testing 2: Hybrid Concolic + Genetic and distributed DFS algorithm

# 4 Main Tasks of Human Engineers

1. Adding proper assert() statements
  - W/o assert(), no test results obtained
2. Selection of symbolic variables in a target program
  - Identify which parts of a target program are most important
3. Construction of symbolic external environment
  - To detect real bugs
4. Performance tuning and debugging
  - To obtain better concolic testing results

SAT based  
Automated  
Program Analysis  
Technique: a  
Case Study on  
Flash Memory  
File System

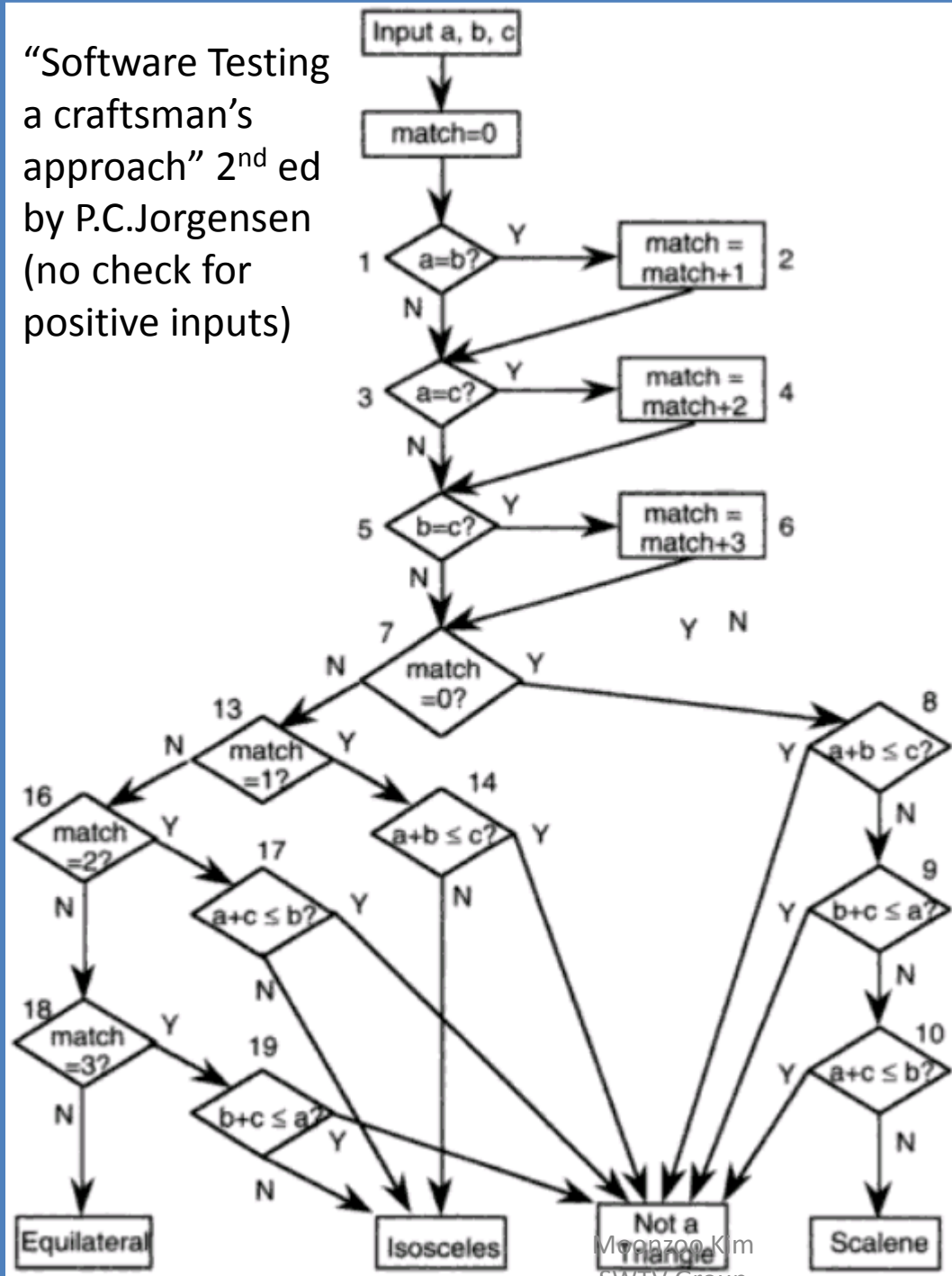
Real-world case  
study: Libexif  
(system level  
testing) and  
security lib (unit  
level testing)

```

1 #include <crest.h>
2 main() {
3   int a,b,c, match=0;
4   CREST_int(a); CREST_int(b); CREST_int(c);
5   // filtering out invalid inputs
6   if(a <= 0 || b <= 0 || c <= 0) exit();
7   printf("a,b,c = %d,%d,%d:",a,b,c);
8   //0: Equilateral, 1:Isosceles,
9   // 2: Not a triangle, 3:Scalene
10  int result=-1;
11  if(a==b) match=match+1;
12  if(a==c) match=match+2;
13  if(b==c) match=match+3;
14  if(match==0) {
15    if( a+b <= c) result=2;
16    else if( b+c <= a) result=2;
17    else result=3;
18  } else {
19    if(match == 1) {
20      if(a+b <= c) result =2;
21      else result=1;
22    } else {
23      if(match ==2) {
24        if(a+c <=b) result = 2;
25        else result=1;
26      } else {
27        if(match==3) {
28          if(b+c <= a) result=2;
29          else result=1;
30        } else result = 0;
31      }
32    }
33    printf("result=%d\n",result);
34  }

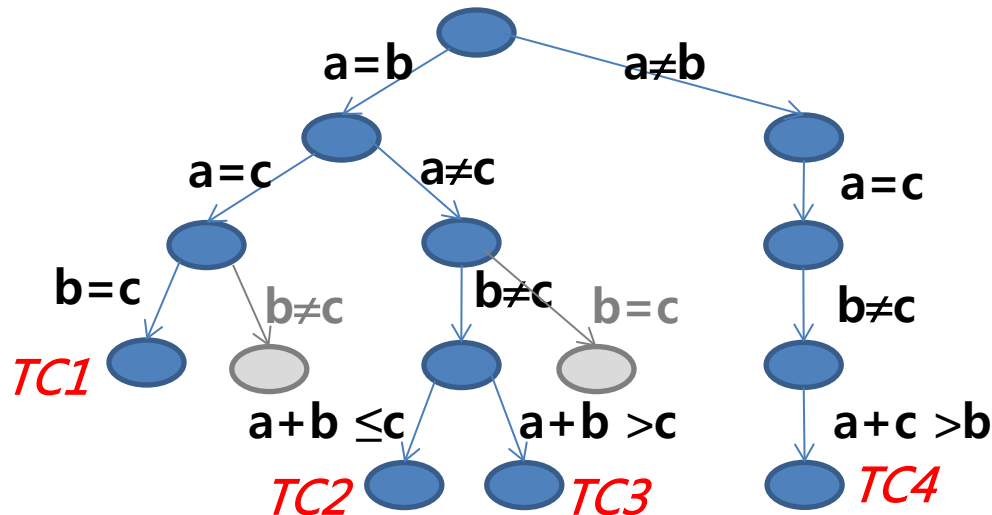
```

“Software Testing a craftsman’s approach” 2<sup>nd</sup> ed by P.C.Jorgensen (no check for positive inputs)



# Concolic Testing the Triangle Program

Test case	Input (a,b,c)	Executed path conditions (PC)	Next PC	Solution for the next PC
1	1,1,1	$a=b \wedge a=c \wedge b=c$	$a=b \wedge a=c \wedge b \neq c$	Unsat
			$a=b \wedge a \neq c$	1,1,2
2	1,1,2	$a=b \wedge a \neq c \wedge b \neq c \wedge a+b \leq c$	$a=b \wedge a \neq c \wedge b \neq c \wedge a+b > c$	2,2,3
3	2,2,3	$a=b \wedge a \neq c \wedge b \neq c \wedge a+b > c$	$a=b \wedge a \neq c \wedge b=c$	Unsat
			$a \neq b$	2,1,2
4	2,1,2	$a \neq b \wedge a=c \wedge b \neq c \wedge a+c > b$	$a \neq b \wedge a=c \wedge b \neq c \wedge a+c \leq b$	2,5,2



# CREST Commands

- `crestc <filename>.c`
  - Output
    - `<filename>.cil.c` // instrumented C file
    - `branches` // lists of paired branches
    - `<filename>` // executable file
- `run_crest ./filename <n> -[dfs|cfg|random|random_input|hybrid]`
  - `<n>`: # of iterations/testings
  - `dfs`: depth first search (but in reverse order)
  - `cfg`: uncovered branch first
  - `random`: negated branch is randomly selected
  - `random_input`: pure random input
  - `hybrid`: combination of `dfs` and `random`



# Instrumented C Code

#line 10

```
{ /* Creates symbolic expression a==b */
__CrestLoad(36, (unsigned long )(& a), (long long )a);
__CrestLoad(35, (unsigned long )(& b), (long long )b);
__CrestApply2(34, 12, (long long )(a == b));
if (a == b) {

    __CrestBranch(37, 11, 1); //extern void __CrestBranch(int id , int bid , unsigned char b )
    __CrestLoad(41, (unsigned long )(& match), (long long )match);
    __CrestLoad(40, (unsigned long )0, (long long )1);
    __CrestApply2(39, 0, (long long )(match + 1));
    __CrestStore(42, (unsigned long )(& match));
    match ++;

} else {
    __CrestBranch(38, 12, 0);
} }
```

# Execution Snapshot

```
[moonzoo@verifier crest]$ run_crest ./triangle 10000 -dfs
Iteration 0 (0s): covered 0 branches [0 reach funs, 0 reach branches].
Iteration 1 (0s): covered 1 branches [1 reach funs, 32 reach branches].
Iteration 2 (0s): covered 3 branches [1 reach funs, 32 reach branches].
Iteration 3 (0s): covered 5 branches [1 reach funs, 32 reach branches].
a,b,c = 1,1,1:result=0
Iteration 4 (0s): covered 13 branches [1 reach funs, 32 reach branches].
a,b,c = 2,1,1:result=2
Iteration 5 (0s): covered 17 branches [1 reach funs, 32 reach branches].
a,b,c = 2,1,2:result=1
Iteration 6 (0s): covered 20 branches [1 reach funs, 32 reach branches].
a,b,c = 1,2,1:result=2
Iteration 7 (0s): covered 21 branches [1 reach funs, 32 reach branches].
a,b,c = 3,2,1:result=2
Iteration 8 (0s): covered 24 branches [1 reach funs, 32 reach branches].
a,b,c = 2,1,3:result=2
Iteration 9 (0s): covered 25 branches [1 reach funs, 32 reach branches].
a,b,c = 4,3,2:result=3
Iteration 10 (0s): covered 27 branches [1 reach funs, 32 reach branches].
a,b,c = 2,3,1:result=2
Iteration 11 (0s): covered 28 branches [1 reach funs, 32 reach branches].
a,b,c = 3,2,2:result=1
Iteration 12 (0s): covered 29 branches [1 reach funs, 32 reach branches].
a,b,c = 2,2,1:result=1
Iteration 13 (0s): covered 31 branches [1 reach funs, 32 reach branches].
a,b,c = 1,1,2:result=2
Iteration 14 (0s): covered 32 branches [1 reach funs, 32 reach branches].
elapsed time = 0.0015093
```

```
[moonzoo@verifier crest]$ cat coverage
3 /* covered branch ids*/
4
5
6
7
8
11
12
14
15
17
18
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
```

# Supported Symbolic Datatypes

- `#define CREST_unsigned_char(x) __CrestUChar(&x)`
- `#define CREST_unsigned_short(x) __CrestUShort(&x)`
- `#define CREST_unsigned_int(x) __CrestUInt(&x)`
- `#define CREST_char(x) __CrestChar(&x)`
- `#define CREST_short(x) __CrestShort(&x)`
- `#define CREST_int(x) __CrestInt(&x)`

# Decision/Condition Coverage Analysis by CREST

```

1 int main(){
2     int A, B, C, D;
3     if (A && B || C && D){
4         printf("Yes\n");
5     }else{
6         printf("No\n");
7     }
8 }

```

- CREST consider all possible cases with short-circuit
- Thus, coverage reported by CREST might be lower than actual branch coverage

```

1  if (A != 0) {
2      __CrestBranch(5, 2, 1); A == T
3      if (B != 0) {
4          __CrestBranch(10, 3, 1); A == T && B == T
5          printf("Yes\n");
6      } else {
7          __CrestBranch(11, 4, 0); A == T && B != T
8          goto _L;
9      }
10 } else {
11     __CrestBranch(6, 5, 0) A != TRUE
12     _L: /* CIL Label */
13     if (C != 0) {
14         __CrestBranch(16, 6, 1); (A != T || A == T && B != T) && C == T
15         if (D != 0) {
16             __CrestBranch(21, 7, 1); (A != T || A == T && B != T) && C == T && D == T
17             printf("Yes\n");
18         } else {
19             __CrestBranch(22, 8, 0); (A != T || A == T && B != T) && C == T && D != T
20             printf("No\n");
21         }
22     } else {
23         __CrestBranch(17, 9, 0); (A != T || A == T && B != T) && C != T
24         printf("No\n");
25     }
26 }

```