



Rob Sison and Thomas Sewell
UNSW
Term 3 2024

That's it

As of Tuesday, we have now covered all the content in COMP3161/COMP9164. Thanks for sticking with the course.

- **Syntax Foundations**

Concrete/Abstract Syntax, Ambiguity, HOAS, Binding, Variables, Substitution, λ -calculus

- **Semantics Foundations**

Static Semantics, Dynamic Semantics (Small-Step/Big-Step), Abstract Machines, Environments, Stacks, Safety, Liveness, Type Safety (Progress and Preservation)

- **Features**

- Algebraic (Sum/Product) Data Types, Recursive Types
- Errors, Exceptions
- Polymorphism (Universal Types), Type Inference, Unification
- Abstract (and Existential) Data Types, Overloading, Subtyping
- Concurrency, Session Types

Further Learning

- UNSW courses:
 - COMP3131 — Programming Languages and Compilers
 - COMP3153 — Algorithmic Verification
 - COMP4141 — Theory of Computation
 - COMP4161 — Advanced Topics in Software Verification
- Online Learning
 - Oregon Programming Languages Summer School Lectures (<https://www.cs.uoregon.edu/research/summerschool/archives.html>) Videos are available from here! Also some on YouTube.

What's next?

The exam is on **Friday, 29th of November 2024**, in the morning session (between 9:30am-1:30pm).

- You'll have 2 hours and 10 minutes within the 4-hour window.
- Online with a login – we'll provide you info on credentials.
- We have posted some sample exams with revision questions.
(**Note**: Ignore sample questions on “most general unifiers” and STM.)
- The final exam will run similar to the sample exams.
- Open book: can use any passive resource (books, slides, google, etc), but:
 - **Not** allowed to ask for help from anyone.
 - **Not** allowed AI assistance for technical support (e.g. ChatGPT).
- If there are clarification questions, make **private** threads on Ed or **email us** at: <mailto:cs3161@cse.unsw.edu.au>.

Provisional: TS Hiring

We're looking to hire research assistants or supervise thesis students for **software verification** projects related to seL4.

- **Pancake language**: implement and verify compiler improvements
- **Microkit**: library code verification using **deductive verification** tools
- **component subpolicies**: verify userland code satisfies local security policies using **deductive verification** tools
- **inter-component protocols**: develop tool to validate correspondence between protocol model and C implementation
- **worst-case execution time**: develop formal reasoning framework for timeliness of seL4 userland application code
- **specification gap**: verify seL4's system calls behave the way the manual says they do using **interactive theorem proving**
- **time-protection extensions**: verify seL4 prevents data leakage between users via timing channels using **interactive theorem proving**

A background in OS or other theory/verification courses also helps. If any of this sounds interesting to you, get in touch!

