

COMP-667 Software Fault Tolerance

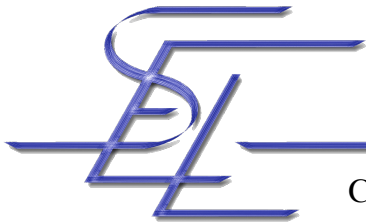
Course Overview

Jörg Kienzle

Software Engineering Laboratory

School of Computer Science

McGill University



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Outline

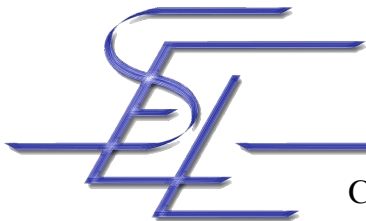
- Motivation
- Course Goals
- Course Information
- Background on me
- Suggested Textbooks
- Grading
- Questionnaire



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Motivation

- Scope, complexity and pervasiveness of computer-based and controlled systems continue to increase
- Software assumes more and more responsibility
- Consequences of systems failing
 - Annoying to catastrophic
 - Opportunities lost, businesses failed, security breaches, systems destroyed, lives lost



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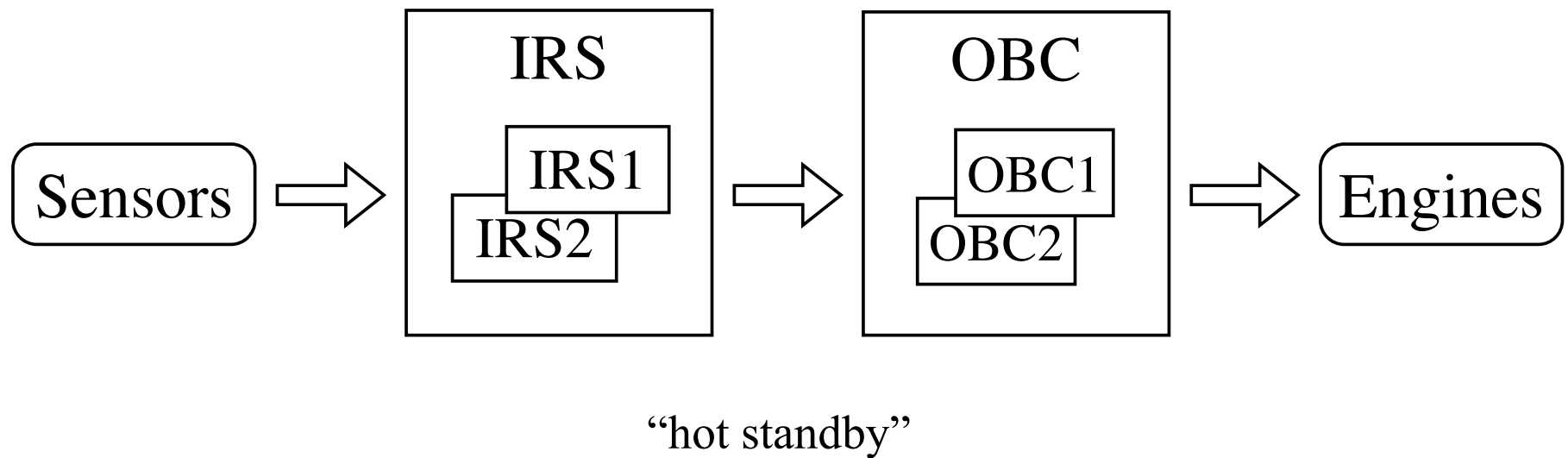
Ariane V Disaster

On June 4, 1996 an Ariane V rocket launched by the European Space Agency exploded just forty seconds after lift-off



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Ariane V Architecture



Ariane V Launch, June 4th 1996

IRS raises an *Operand Error* exception while
converting a 64bit float to 16bit integer

No specific exception handler

Operand Error caused by high value of *Horizontal Bias*,
which is normal for Ariane V

Function serves no purpose after lift-off in Ariane 5

Ariane IV, from which the code was reused, needs it during 50 seconds

Not possible to switch to backup IRS, for it had failed as well (72ms earlier)

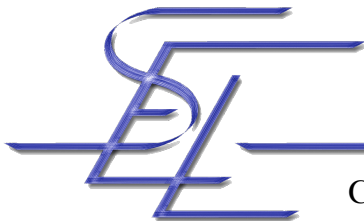
On-board Computer interprets “core dump” data as normal flight data

Full nozzle deflection of solid boosters and vulcan engine

Angle of attack $> 20^\circ$

Separation of boosters from main stage

Self-destruction after 39 seconds



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Course Goals

- Goal of Fault Tolerance:
 - Continue service in spite of design faults and faults of the surrounding environment
- Understand the important and fundamental concepts of fault tolerance
 - Be aware of the main techniques that can be applied by developers to produce fault-tolerant software
- Gain experience in implementation
 - Master the tricky subtleties of your favorite programming language



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Tentative Course Outline

- Fundamental Fault Tolerance Concepts
 - Terminology, Definitions, Fault Tolerance Context
- Programming language features for implementation
- Sequential Design Diverse Systems
 - Recovery blocks, retry blocks
- Independent Concurrent Systems
 - N-Version programming, N-Copy programming
- Dependability-Focused Requirements Elicitation
- Other Concurrent Fault Tolerance Techniques
 - Competitive: Transactions, etc...
 - Cooperative: Atomic Actions, etc...
 - Hybrid models



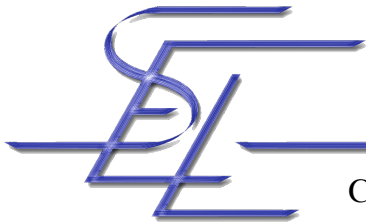
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Course Info

- Pre-requisites:
COMP-409 Concurrent Programming
- Course hours:
 - Monday, Wednesday: 10:00 - 11:30
- Course webpage:

[http://www.cs.mcgill.ca/~joerg/SEL/
COMP-667_Home.html](http://www.cs.mcgill.ca/~joerg/SEL/COMP-667_Home.html)

(handouts available for download there)



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Instructor

Jörg Kienzle

McConnell Engineering, room 327

Email: Joerg.Kienzle@mcgill.ca

Phone: (514) 398-2049

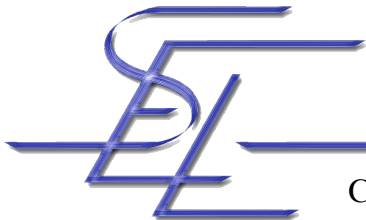
Home: (514) 871-2780

Office hours:

Monday: 11:30 - 12:30

+ any other time

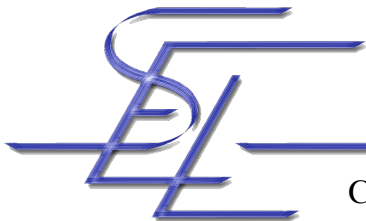
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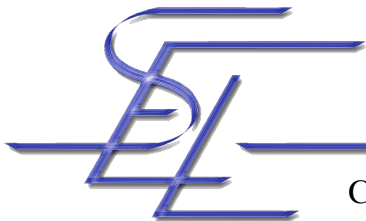
My Background

- Born in Princeton, NJ, USA
- German parents
- Grown up in Switzerland
(German speaking part)
- Studied at the Swiss Federal Institute
of Technology, Lausanne
(French speaking part)
- Married a Canadian girl



My Interests

- Fault tolerance
 - Integrating the concern of fault tolerance into the software development cycle
 - Determine the need for fault tolerance at the analysis level
 - Choose an appropriate architecture and fault tolerance model during design
 - Providing fault tolerance to the programmer (frameworks, aspect-orientation)
 - Implementing fault tolerance models on top of COTS middleware
- Fault tolerance in massively multi-player games
- Aspect-oriented Software Development



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Teaching Assistant

Wisam Al Abed

McConnell Engineering, room 322

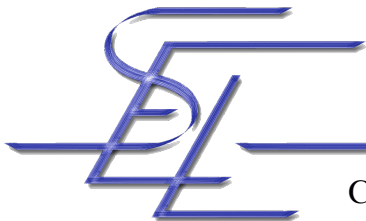
Email: wisam.alabed@mail.mcgill.ca

Phone: (514) 398-7071 ext. 00116

Office hours:

TBA

(or by appointment)



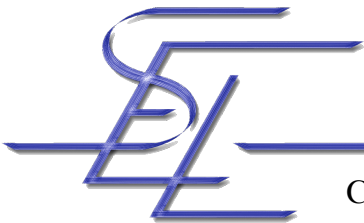
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Textbooks that Could Help

- Laura L. Pullum:
*Software Fault Tolerance:
Techniques and Implementation*,
Artech House, Boston, 2001.
ISBN: 1-58053-137-7



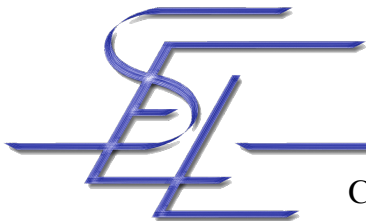
- Available online at: http://library.books24x7.com/book/id_3628/toc.asp
- Jörg Kienzle:
*Open Multithreaded Transactions: A Transaction Model for
Concurrent Object-Oriented Programming*, Kluwer
Academic Publishers, 2003.
ISBN: 1-4020-1727-8



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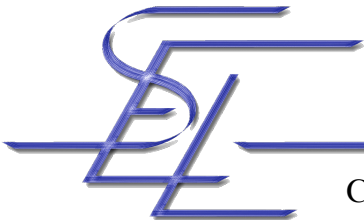
More Books

- Jean-Claude Geffroy and Gilles Motet: *Design of Dependable Computing Systems*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2002.
ISBN: 1-4020-0437-0
- P. A. Lee and T. Anderson: *Fault Tolerance - Principles and Practice*, 2nd edition, Springer Verlag, 1990.
ISBN: 0-3878-2077-9
- K. Ramamritham and P. K. Chrysanthis: *Advances in Concurrency Control and Transaction Processing*, ACM Press, Los Alamitos, California, 1997.
ISBN: 0-8186-7405-9

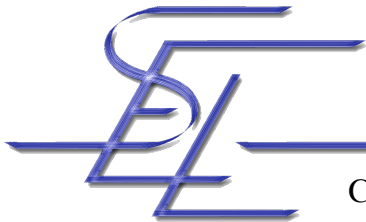
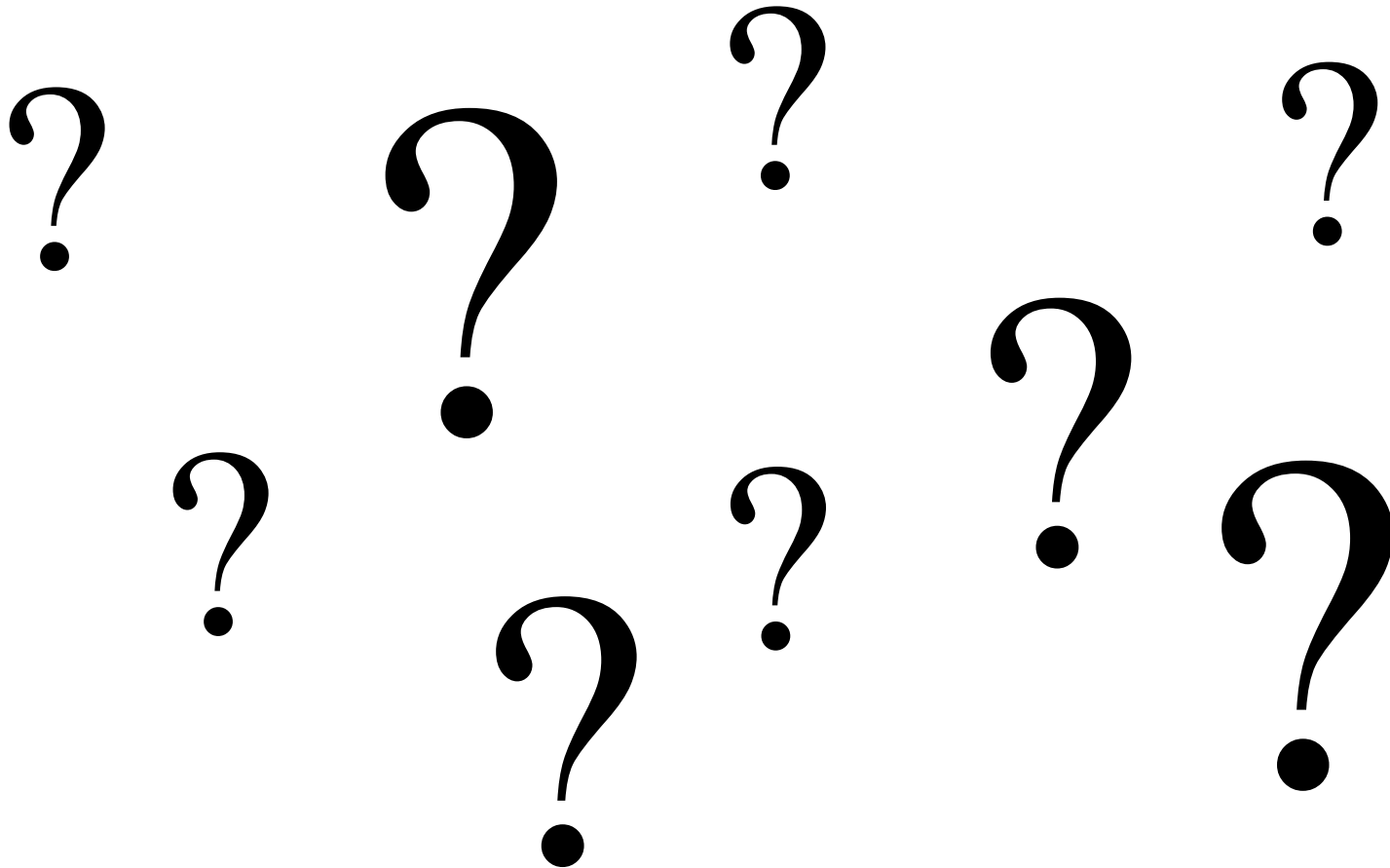


Grading

- 4 homework assignments
 - 1 warm-up assignment (5%)
 - 2 programming assignments (2 x 20% or (1x25% and 1x15%))
 - 1 non-programming assignment (1 x 10%)
- Project (45%) (individual)
 - Provide a software fault tolerance scheme (distributed or concurrent) as a library / framework for a programming language of your choice
Hand-in: short report and code
 - Study a specific software fault tolerance scheme or application using software fault tolerance (e.g. airbus, space-shuttle, TGV, air-traffic control, nuclear power plant, etc...)
Hand-in: 45 - 60 min. presentation in class
 - Custom :)



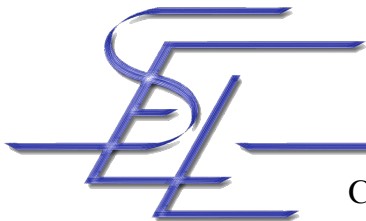
Questions?



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Questionnaire

- For you
 - Evaluate your “concurrent” knowledge
- For me
 - To help me plan the course
 - Programming language background
 - Programming project or case study presentation?
- For all
 - Have some fun!



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