FACS FACTS

The Newsletter of the BCS Formal Aspects of Computing Science SIG

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Continuing our theme on reports on Formal Methods Tools, this issue includes an overview of the Mural System.

We also have the results of two surveys about the penetration of Formal Methods in industry and academia. The results might not be statistically useful or indeed the surveying methods used not rigorous but they do however provide interesting reading.

Happy Summer

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Discrete Mathematics and Software Development
Some results from a survey

The following notes document the results of an attempt to discover the extent of the penetration of formal mathematical approaches into the teaching of software development in degree level courses in the U.K. The survey was carried out under the auspices of BCS FACS; we were interested to see how our 'special interest' was dealt with by Higher Education curricula.

All Computing departments in Universities, Polytechnics (as they used to be called) and H.E. institutions were circulated with a questionnaire. One hundred and five institutions were targetted and thirty eight responded. One immediate concern was that the replying institutions would be those for whom formal approaches to software development were the preferred approaches, whereas the institutions that did not reply would be those that rejected such approaches. Telephone approaches to colleagues in institutions which did not originally reply tended to confirm that the responses received were typical. In fact, we even received a few null responses from departments whose computing courses contained no formal mathematical inputs. We have reason to believe, therefore, that the replies are fairly representative of the state of computing courses in Higher Education.

The questionnaire was deliberately flexible in structure as it had to cope with the many varied course structures that are to be found nationally. Many courses are completely modular and some computing courses have a wide variety of routes to a computing qualification. We interpreted the results in such cases by assuming routes through courses which deliberately selected the formal computing options. This will have introduced some bias into the figures. Many (most) of the routes through computing courses that we selected were called 'software engineering' or something very similar. If you assume that this study is concerned broadly with undergraduate software engineering courses rather than computer science courses then the bias will be minimal.

The questionnaire is appended to this report. The results that follow are outlined in the same sequence as the questions that were put to the institutions. This is followed by a caricature of a 'typical' undergraduate computing course and then some more general conclusions, comments and observations.

Separation or integration?
Over two thirds of the responses indicated that discrete mathematics and formal notations were taught as separate units to those concerned with software development. The use of the formal mathematics was largely in the role of making specifications more precise. There were only two responses which suggested that their courses saw software development as an activity rooted in mathematics and organised their curriculum.
accordingly. Roughly one third of the respondents suggested that they were actively considering/investigating ways to increase the integration of mathematics with software development.

**How much formality?**
Typically this is seen as a decreasing proportion of a computing course as the course progresses through the (usually) 3 years. The following figures are averaged from all the replies received. Approximately one fifth (20.4%) of the first year is given over to discrete mathematics or formal program development. One sixth (16.1%) of the final year is given over to mathematical formality. The second year turns out to be in between these two (18.4%). It is clear that mathematics is considered an important component.

**Notation**
The propositional and predicate calculus were almost universal although there was no agreement on precise syntax. The following table outlines the number of references to particular notations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notation</th>
<th>Number of references</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VDM</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJ/algebraic specification</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCS/CSP</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional language (eg. SML)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prolog</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A glance through the latest publisher's catalogues will confirm the accuracy of this table.

**More or less formality**
There do not appear to be any plans to reduce the formal component of any courses. Approximately one third of the respondents claimed to be considering an increase in the proportion of time spent.

**Industrial feedback**
The plain truth here is that there has been very little feedback of any kind. The little positive feedback that has come has been as a result of industrial liaison committees or from joint research projects.

**A 'typical' undergraduate computing course**
A typical course will contain a first year discrete mathematics unit which will cover propositional and predicate calculus and some set theory. A second year course entitled something like 'formal specification', which will cover a particular formal notation for specification, either Z or VDM. A final year unit would then address something like 'formal approaches to concurrency' or 'program derivation'.

**Conclusions, comments and observations**
BCS FACS Questionnaire

Formal Methods of Software Development in U.K. Higher Education

Introduction
We are attempting to discover the extent to which Discrete Mathematics has penetrated the teaching of Software Development. We are adopting a broad interpretation of the phrase Software Development, including all the traditional life cycle phases of analysis, design and implementation. We have an equally broad view of the Discrete Mathematics and we include the following areas of interest;

- Program Derivation - Gries, Dijkstra, Dromey sort of stuff.
- Formal specification notations, Z, VDM etc..
- Refinement
- Executable specifications - Prolog, SML, OBJ.

Courses come in many varieties and modes of delivery, any questionnaire (including this one) looking at this topic area will of necessity ask questions which do not quite seem to fit the teaching structure that you operate. We have adopted the solution of asking very flexible questions thus postponing the hard bit until we have your answers.

We assume that it will take about half an hour to answer these questions. Your patience will be rewarded with a copy of the results.

The questions assume that your answering will refer to one course, most likely your undergraduate computing/software engineering course. If you have more than one course to describe would you please keep the details for each separate. Highly modular courses could indicate compulsory areas and typical student choice profiles.

Questions

1. What is the role of discrete mathematics in software development in your course? You could possibly send a standard course outline here.
   - Is the mathematics separate from the analysis or design or programming?
   - What proportion of the course is spent on formal methods?
   - Is this a first year, second year or final year topic?
   - Which notations do you teach your students?

2. From your current position, do you plan to increase the level of formality, leave it as it is or raise it?

3. Can you describe any industrial feedback that you have had as a result of teaching or not teaching formal notations to your students.
Software development and formal mathematics are not as integrated in undergraduate computing courses as one might hope with one or two notable exceptions. Mathematics is used largely as a tool for supporting the specification process and Z and VDM are the most popular notations by a long way.

The responses we received concerning higher degrees painted a slightly different picture but there was not enough feedback to make more than a very general comment. Many MSc courses, both conversion and follow-on, had a high percentage of mathematical input. These were anywhere between 25% and 50% of the courses. We seem, therefore, to believe that mathematics is important in software development but more important at the higher academic levels.

One very useful idea that emerged was that we should use the FACS journal as a forum for dissemination of ideas, particularly concerning the reporting of attempts to integrate mathematics and software development.

We learnt a lot about the construction of questionnaires and internal departmental communications through this exercise. (Our own institutions failed to respond!) We send our thanks to all those people who replied to the questionnaire and hope that the results will be helpful to you. If you wish to discuss any matters further please contact the authors at the addresses below.

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Report on BCS Bristol Branch Spring Lecture Series on Formal Methods

In March and April of this year, the Bristol Branch of the BCS ran a Spring Lecture Series on Formal Methods. The Series was spread over 6 Tuesday Evenings and the Programme was as follows:

1. Intro to Formal Methods (A. Hall, Praxis); Intro to Discrete Maths (M. Bartley, Praxis)
2. Intro to Z (J. Woodcock, PRG Oxford)
3. Intro to VDM (M. Bartley, Praxis)
4. VDM Workshop (a number of Praxis employees)
5. Case Studies (P. Harry, HP; D. Clutterbuck, Program Validation; I. Houston, IBM)
   Tools demonstrations: Mural (Manchester University), Cadiz (York Software Engineering)
6. The Future and Open Forum (M. Thomas, Praxis; I. Holyer, Bristol University)

The cost was 40 pounds to BCS members and 55 pounds to non-members. 72 people registered for the course (we were oversubscribed) and the average attendance each evening was 55 to 60. A questionnaire was distributed on the last evening and 48 replies were received. The results are below.

1. What was your main reason for attending?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Interest</th>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Industry Standards Specify</th>
<th>Professionalism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Formal Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. In what sector of industry are you employed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Do you use Formal Methods at work?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes - a lot</th>
<th>Yes - a little</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(4 of the yes’s were from people in Education)

If so - what language/method?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Z</th>
<th>VDM</th>
<th>CSP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Do you intend to start/continue using Formal Methods?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Probably</th>
<th>Depends on clients</th>
<th>Forced to by Law</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Do you think Formal Methods are sufficiently mature to be used on real projects?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Only for the Specification</th>
<th>Depends on Tools</th>
<th>Yes - but ltd applications</th>
<th>Not at the moment</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. What, in your opinion, is the main driving force behind the adoption of Formal Methods?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safety Requirements</th>
<th>Getting the Spec right</th>
<th>Client demand</th>
<th>Legislation</th>
<th>The need for proofs</th>
<th>Quality</th>
<th>Better designs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In my opinion a number of points should be drawn to the readers attention:

1. The number of people attending for work reasons was relatively low. Most people attended out of personal curiosity and a desire to learn something new. Having said that the level of interest was very high.
2. 50% of the people using Formal Methods at work are simply teaching it.
3. I personally feel that the number of people answering yes to \( \oplus \) is high due to the fact that they had just finished a course on Formal Methods and were therefore keen to employ them.
4. They were not prompted at all for any of the answers.

I personally don't feel that these results are statistically very useful and there cannot be a high level of confidence in them. However, having said that I think they make interesting reading.
Machine Support for Formal Methods  
An Overview of Mural

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21 July 1992

1 Introduction

As computers are being used more and more widely in situations where the reliability of their software is critical, so attention is being turned to formal methods as a possible means of increasing this reliability. Many people nowadays realise that formal specification can play an important role in helping software designers to gain a greater understanding of the system they are building by providing an abstract, unambiguous language in which the functionality of a piece of software can be described. In most cases, however, the formal specification simply forms an isolated “stepping stone” between some informal requirements document written in (possibly structured) natural language and the actual code forming the implementation of the system, and little attempt is made to show either that the specification is itself sound or that it represents a valid description of the system defined by the informal requirements document. The mathematical basis of specification languages means that mathematical reasoning can be used to help with both of these tasks. This, by its very nature, is readily amenable to computer support. This paper describes how the mural system addresses these issues.

Basically there are two parts to mural, a specification support tool where specifications are constructed and a mathematical reasoning environment or proof assistant where mathematical reasoning about a specification can be performed. The two are linked by a “translator” whereby an environment supporting mathematical reasoning about a particular specification can be generated automatically from that specification. At present, the specification support tool and the translator only support VDM, though any other specification language could be treated entirely analogously. The proof assistant, on the other hand, is generic and will support reasoning about specifications written in any of a wide range of specification languages as it stands.

2 The Specification Support Tool

The current version of the specification support tool provides a series of structure-editor-based operations for constructing specifications using a large subset of the emerging standardised specification language VDM-SL. Mural uses the mathematical syntax of VDM-SL, though specifications can also be generated from the ascii syntax by way of an interface to the related tool SpecBox. SpecBox reads a text file written in this ascii syntax and checks that it conforms to this syntax. It also performs some
consistency checks on the specification, and provides a mechanism whereby any errors discovered can be corrected interactively. Once the file passes all these tests it can be converted to a form which is directly readable by mural. Both these methods of building specifications ensure that only syntactically correct specifications can be constructed in mural.

3 The Proof Assistant

Mural’s proof assistant basically consists of a collection of mathematical theories. These theories fall into two categories: those supporting reasoning about the basic data-types of the specification language itself (e.g., the logic of partial functions, sets, maps, sequences, etc. for VDM-SL) and those supporting reasoning about a particular specification. The system is generic in that it can be instantiated with a basic set of theories describing the data-types of other specification languages if so desired.

Each theory contains a set of declarations of the mathematical symbols used to describe the properties of the data-type or specification in question, so that, for example, the theory of sets will include the set type constructor -set, the operators for set union (\(\cup\)), set intersection (\(\cap\)), cardinality (card), and many more. A theory also contains a set of inference rules embodying the various properties of these symbols. Thus, for example, the inference rule stating that the set union operator is commutative has the form:

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{\(\cup\text{-comm} \): } A\text{-set}, s_2: A\text{-set} \\
&\text{\(s_1 \cup s_2 = s_2 \cup s_1\)}
\end{align*}
\]

Here the interpretation is that the formula below the horizontal line is true if all the formulae above the line are true. Thus, in the above example, \(s_1 \cup s_2 = s_2 \cup s_1\) provided that both \(s_1\) and \(s_2\) are sets.

One very important feature of mural’s proof assistant is that new inference rules can be added to any theory at any time. These can be proved (using already existing inference rules), thus extending the reasoning power of the system.

Some subset of a theory’s inference rules are designated as its axioms and these are taken to embody the most primitive reasoning steps which can be made in a theory in that they are taken to be true without proof. Inference rules which are not axioms have an associated proof, though this might be incomplete as mural will allow an inference rule to be used in a proof even if it has not been proved. This is an important feature as it admits a notion of rigorous proof in which “obvious” steps in a fully formal proof can be omitted by stating them as unproved inference rules.

Mural keeps track of everywhere that unproved inference rules have been used to prove other inference rules, and proved rules are thus only proved modulo some (possibly empty) set of these unproved inference rules (often called lemmas). This same dependency mechanism is also used to ensure that no circularities in reasoning are introduced into the system, so that, for instance, it is impossible to use a rule \(r_1\) in the proof of some other rule \(r_2\) and then to prove rule \(r_1\) using rule \(r_2\).

This ability to leave steps in a proof unproved is particularly helpful when proving properties of specifications. These proofs generally tend to be fairly long and tedious, though for the most part they are conceptually fairly lightweight with possibly only a few points requiring any major amount of thought. The facility means that the lightweight parts can be factored out as unproved lemmas and attention can be concentrated around those parts of the proof which contain the crux of the reasoning. One can easily envisage a proof review process based on this idea, in which someone with specialist mathematical knowledge simply looks at the lemmas left unproved by someone else trying to prove some properties of some specification and can pronounce them as either acceptable (in the sense of believed to be valid) or unacceptable. Further work could then be done on the proofs of those lemmas.
flagged as unacceptable, possibly by reducing them to other lemmas, and any desired degree of formality in the reasoning process can thus be obtained.

Proofs in mural are performed in natural deduction style and use the full mathematical syntax. However, no particular order of working is imposed, so the user is free to adopt whatever style seems more natural. Thus, it is possible to use forward reasoning, where new facts are deduced from assumptions and already known facts, or backward reasoning, where some goal that is still to be proved is reduced to subgoals from which it can be proved.

Mural provides a pattern-matching facility with which it can decide whether or not a particular inference rule can be applied to a selected set of facts and/or a selected goal. This forms the basis of its controlled search facility in which the user can designate an area of search (a set of theories and/or a set of inference rules) and mural will display those inference rules in the search area which can be applied to the selected facts/goal alongside all the possible instantiations of each applicable rule. This facility is particularly useful for new users who are unfamiliar with all the inference rules available in the system (currently around 800).

Another important facility of the proof assistant is its tactic language. Using this, the user can “program” commonly-used proof strategies as parametrized tactics, using which a whole series of steps of a proof can be generated at once. As an example, one of the existing tactics takes as its parameter a list of inference rules and effectively just plods through the list trying to apply each rule in turn somewhere in some proof until none of them can be applied any more.

One problem with allowing the user the freedom to write new tactics and to pass essentially arbitrary arguments to existing tactics is that it is then impossible to guarantee either that the tactic will terminate or that it will have generated any useful proof steps even if it does terminate. For this reason, mural copies the current state of a proof before a tactic starts execution and applies the tactic to the copy. As the tactic runs changes to the proof are displayed. Execution can be terminated if these changes look unreasonable, and work can continue on the original proof.

In fact this copying of proofs is just one aspect of a more general facility which allows more than one proof to be attached to a given inference rule. This facility allows the user to start a completely new proof from scratch if some proof seems to be getting nowhere, or to duplicate an existing partially complete proof, for instance to try out different ideas on it. When an inference rule has one complete proof attached to it a “garbage collection” facility is offered which not only discards all incomplete proofs attached to the same inference rule but also removes any redundant lines from its complete proof (e.g. facts which might have been deduced by forward reasoning but which were never needed to justify any of the subgoals generated by backward reasoning).

4 The Translator

Given a specification in the specification support tool, mural’s translator will automatically construct a theory in the proof assistant which will form the basis for reasoning about that specification. This theory will contain a set of symbol declarations corresponding to the type definitions, the auxiliary functions, etc. etc. defined in the specification, together with a set of axioms describing their basic properties. Symbols and axioms which describe auxiliary constructs implicitly defined in the specification but not appearing explicitly there (such as the mk-function and the selector functions for a composite type definition) are also generated as part of this process. In addition, the translator builds an unproved rule for each of the proof obligations associated with the specification. These proof obligations embody the conditions under which the specification is internally self-consistent or sound. The proof assistant
would then be used to show that these conditions are satisfied.

Once generated, of course, this theory has exactly the same properties as any other theory in the proof assistant. This means that the user can extend it freely by adding new, unproved inference rules to it by hand. These can then be used to make the task of discharging the proof obligations easier. They can also be used to state "obvious" properties of the specification and left unproved, thus allowing the user to decide the degree of formality appropriate for each part of the specification in the way described above.

Another important use of this extensionality is in trying to show that a formal specification is a faithful representation of the system described in the informal requirements document. The idea is to annotate the informal requirements document with statements about fundamental properties that the desired software is expected to exhibit. Then, when the informal requirements document is transformed, by whatever means, into the abstract formal specification these annotations are simultaneously transformed to formal annotations on the specification, these formal annotations stating the equivalent properties that the specification should exhibit in order that the desired property of the system be preserved. These formal annotations can finally be added as unproved rules to the theory generated from the specification by mural’s translator. Proving these rules would then show that the specification possesses the desired property. Of course this process does not, and can not, provide proof that the formal specification is a faithful representation of the informal requirements, but it can at least serve to increase one’s confidence that this is so.

5 Data-type Refinement

Mural’s specification support tool offers a facility whereby one specification can be designated as a refinement of another. When this is done, the user defines a retrieve function and indicates for each operation in the concrete specification the corresponding operation in the abstract specification of which it is claimed to be an implementation. Having done this, the translator can be invoked exactly as described above to generate a theory supporting reasoning about the refinement step. This theory will contain a symbol declaration and axioms describing the retrieve function plus unproved rules stating the proof obligations of the refinement (adequacy of retrieve function plus domain and result obligations for each operation pairing for VDM). These are again proved with the help of the proof assistant.

6 Further Reading and Availability


A large (at least 12Meg of memory) workstation running version 2.5 of Smalltalk-80 is required to run mural. Academic licences are available at a cost of £100 (handling charge). For non-academics, an evaluation licence limiting use to non-commercial exploitation costs £250 at the time of writing. Licences for commercial purposes can also be supplied, but are subject to individual negotiation. Mural can be supplied to non-academics with an embedded run-time licence for Smalltalk-80 at an additional cost of around £400. Training and consultancy services based around mural are also available.
Call for Papers
Third International Conference on Algebraic Methodology and Software Technology, AMAST

Goals and Organization

The goal of the third AMAST conference to be held on June 22-25, 1993, at the University of Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands, is to consolidate the trend towards using algebraic methodology as a foundation for software technology, and to show that universal algebra provides a practical mathematical alternative to the common, ad-hoc approaches to software engineering and development. Academia and industry are both beneficiaries of such a formal foundation.

Organizing Committee:

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Secretariat: Kirstin Reinink, Yvonne Rokker

Programme Committee:


Invited Speakers

To achieve the goal of the conference we aim to provide a forum in which leading researchers in mathematics, computer science, and software development, will come together to identify algebraic methodologies that are applicable as viable alternatives to the present software development approaches and to discuss the appropriateness of such alternatives with a view to implementation. Invited speakers, with a tentative indication of respective topics, include:
Submissions

Talks reporting research in algebra and logic, suitable as a foundation for software technology, as well as software technologies developed by means of algebraic methodologies, are welcome. Demonstrations of systems showing the improved effectiveness of software developed on a mathematical basis (with or without a talk) will also be considered. To be more precise the organizers wish contributions on, but not limited to, algebraic methods for language design and compiler construction (e.g. for Algol-like programming languages), algebraic methodology for software engineering, algebraic specifications and algorithms to automatically build programs from such specifications, extraction of programs from constructive proofs, categorical, algebraic and logic programming, deductive databases, query language design, algebraic specification of concurrent systems, distributed operating systems, reactive systems, practical techniques and examples for verification of program and/or specification properties. We invite you to submit a two-page abstract (including a few citations of relevant work) of your talk to

AMAST Conference, University of Twente, Fac. Informatica, Att. Mrs. Y. Rokker, P.O. Box 217, NL-7500AE Enschede, The Netherlands (phone: +31 53 893701)

Four-page abbreviated papers of the talks presented at the conference, together with the invited talks, will be collected in the participants' edition of the proceedings, which will be available to the attendees upon their arrival in Twente. The authors are expected to bring full versions of their papers at the conference, for further review and inclusion in the AMAST'93 Proceedings, to be published by Springer-Verlag, London. A special issue of *Theoretical Computer Science* will be dedicated to this conference; participants will be invited to submit their full paper for possible publication in this journal.

Important Due Dates
- Notification of acceptance by March 31, 1993.
- Camera-ready four-page paper to appear in participants' proceedings by May 1, 1993.
- Full paper for AMAST'93 Proceedings, at the conference.

Further information can be obtained from:

In Canada:
V.S. Alagar
Concordia University
Dept. of Computer Science
1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. West
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8
Canada
phone: +1 514 8438022
c-: +1 514 8482839
e-mail: alagar@concour.cs.concordia.ca

In Europe:
Charles Rattray
University of Stirling
Dept. of Mathematics and Computing Science
Stirling, Scotland. FK9 4LA
Great Britain
phone: +1 319 3350742
c-: +1 319 3350627
e-mail: ruw@cs.uiowa.edu

In U.S.A:
Teodor Rus
University of Iowa
Dept. of Computer Science
Iowa City
IA 52242
USA
phone: +1 514 8438022
c-: +1 514 8482839
e-mail: alagar@concour.cs.concordia.ca
<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Acronym</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 27 - 29</td>
<td>International Symposium on Symbolic Algebraic Computation</td>
<td>BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, USA.</td>
<td>SIGSAM.</td>
<td>ISSAC</td>
<td>Erich Kaltofen, Rensselaer Polytech. Inst., Dept. of Comp. Sci., Troy, NY 12180; (518) 276-6907</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kaltofen@cs.rpi.edu">kaltofen@cs.rpi.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 27 - 29</td>
<td>5th Annual Workshop on Computational Learning Theory</td>
<td>PITTSBURGH, PENN., USA.</td>
<td>SIGACT and SIGART.</td>
<td>SIGACT</td>
<td>Robert Daley, Univ. of Pittsburgh, Dept. of Comp. Sci., Pittsburgh, PA 15260; Tel: (412) 624-5930</td>
<td><a href="mailto:daley@cs.pitt.edu">daley@cs.pitt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 28 - August 9</td>
<td>International Summer School on Program Design Calculi</td>
<td>MARKTOBERDORF, GERMANY.</td>
<td>TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAT MUNCHEN, SUMMER SCHOOL, PO BOX 202420, W-800 MUNCHEN 2, GERMANY.</td>
<td>SIGACT</td>
<td>Institut für Informatik, Technische Universität München, Summer School, PO Box 202420, W-800 München 2, Germany.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>August 10 - 12</td>
<td>Eleventh Annual ACM Symposium on Principles of Distributed Computing</td>
<td>VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA.</td>
<td>ACM.</td>
<td>PODC</td>
<td>Maurice Herlihy, Digital Equipment Corporation, Cambridge Research Laboratory, One Kendall Square, Cambridge, MA 02139.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:herlihy@crl.dec.com">herlihy@crl.dec.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 17 - 21</td>
<td>21st International Conference on Parallel Processing</td>
<td>T. FENG, E.E. EAST BLDG., THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIV., UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802; TEL: (814) 863-1409; FAX: (814) 865-7065</td>
<td>ACM.</td>
<td>SIGACT</td>
<td>T. Feng, E.E. East Bldg., The Pennsylvania State Univ., University Park, PA 16802; Tel: (814) 863-1409; Fax: (814) 865-7065</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tfeng@cc1.psu.edu">tfeng@cc1.psu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 24 - 27</td>
<td>Third International Conference on Concurrent Theory</td>
<td>STONY BROOK, NEW YORK, USA.</td>
<td>ACM.</td>
<td>CONCUR</td>
<td>S. A. Smolka, Department of Computer Science, SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794, USA; Tel: +1 516 632 8453, Fax: +1 516 632 8334</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sas@cs.sunysb.edu">sas@cs.sunysb.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Date: September 13 - 17
Title: Software Eng. Standards Symp.
Acronym: SESS
Location: Brighton, UK.
Contact: Takis Katsoulakos, Lloyd's Register, Lloyd's Register House, 29 Wellesley Rd., Croydon, CR0 2AJ, UK, phone (081) 681-4774.
September 14 - 16
3rd IFIP Working Conference on Dependable Computing for Critical Applications
DCCA-3.
Mondello (Palermo), Sicily, Italy.
Luca Simoncini, Dipartimento Di Ingegneria dell’Informazione, Univ. of Pisa, Ditiousalvi
2, 56100 Pisa, Italy; +39(0) 59 3443 or 550100; fax: +39(0) 554342.
Email: simon@icnsec.cnrc.cnr.it.

September 20 - 23
Seventh Knowledge-Based Software Eng. Conf.
KBSE '92.
Tysons Corner, Va., USA.
Barbara Radzisz, Data and Analysis Center for Software, PO Box 120, Utica, NY 13503,
tel: (315) 256-0367.
Email: kbse7-request@cs.rpi.edu

September 22 - 24
Information Systems Developers Workbench Methodologies, Techniques Tools &
Procedures
Gdansk, Poland.
Stanisław Wryczta, The Third International Conference on Information Systems Developers
Workbench, University of Gdansk, Department of Information Systems, Armi Krajowej
119/121, 81-824 Sopot, Poland, tel: (48 58) 51-00-61 ext. 400, fax: (+ 48 58) 52-22-12.
Email: habrias@nauiu.dnet@ciripa.circe.fr.

September 23 - 25
5th International Conference on Putting Into Practice Methods and Tools for Information
System Design
Nantes, France.
Flavio Habrias, Liana, IUT, 3 rue Mi Joffre 44041 Nantes Cedex 01 (France); 'phone: (33)
40 30 50 56; fax: (33) 40 30 60 01.
Email: habrias@nauiu.dnet@ciripa.circe.fr.

September 24 - 25
International Workshop on Object Orientation in Operating Systems
Women ’92.
Paris, France.
Roy Campbell, Univ. of Illinois, Dept. of Comp. Sci., 2413 Digital Lab, 1304 W.
Springfield Ave., Urbane, IL 61801; Tel: (217) 333-3328.

September 28 - October 2
Computer Science Logic
San Miniato (Pisa), Italy.
Date: September 29 - October 1
Title: 16th International Symposium on Computer Performance Modelling, Measurement and Evaluation
Location: Rome, Italy.
Acronym: Performance '92.
Paper Submission Details and Contact:
Submit six copies of full paper (20 double spaced pages max.) to (North America) 5.5.
Lavenberg, IBM TJ Watson Research Ctr., P.O. Box 704, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598.
Email: sslaven@watson.ibm.com.
Or: (Europe and all others): G. Iazeolla, II Univ. di Roma, Dipart. di Ingegneria
Ellettronica, via della Ricerca Scientifica, I-00173 Roma, Italy.
Email: iazeolla@irmias.bitnet

Date: September 30 - October 2
Title: International Workshop on Hardware-Software Codesign
Location: Ohio, USA.
Co-Sponsor: SIGDA, SIGSOFT, IEEE-CS and IEEE-C&CS.
Contact: Joan Dugnoat, Ohio State Univ., 205 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43210.
Email: degroat@ee.eng.ohio-state.edu

Date: October 5 - 7
Title: 6th SCI Conference on Software Engineering and 11th SEI Educator Development Workshop
Location: San Diego, California, USA.
Sponsor: SEI and IEEE-CS in coop. SIGCSE, SIGSOFT.
Contact: Carol Sledge, Software Engineering Institute, Rm 4206, 4500 5th Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213, 'phone (412) 268-7708.
Email: cas@sci.cmu.edu

Date: October 7 - 9
Title: 16th Symposium on Reliable Distributed Systems
Location: Houston, Texas, USA.
Contact: Prof. Kishor S. Trivedi, Department of Electrical Engineering, Duke University, Durham, N.C. 27706 USA, tel: (919) 660-5269.
Email: kst@ee.duke.edu
Or: Dr. Edgar Nett, GMD, P.O. Box 1316, Schloss Birlinghoven, D-5205 Sankt Augustin 1, Germany, tel: (49) 2241-142311.
Email: nett@gmdzi.gmd.de

Date: October 12 - 15
Title: 5th Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Systems
Acronym: ASPLOS V.
Date: October 15 - 18  
Title: Seventh International Software Process Workshop  
Location: Yountville, Calif., USA.  
Sponsor: Rocky Mountain Inst. of Software Eng.  
Contact: Ian Thomas, Software Design and Analysis, 444 Castro St., Suite 413, Mountain View, CA 94041, phone (415) 694-1464.

Date: October 18 - 22  
Title: Object Oriented Programming Systems, Languages, Architectures  
Acronym: OOPSLA '92.  
Location: Vancouver, Canada.  
Sponsor: SIGPLAN.  
Contact: John Pugh, School of Comp. Sci., Carlton Univ., Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, Ont., Canada K1S 5B6; phone (613) 788-4330.  
Email: john_pugh@carleton.ca

Date: October 19 - 23  
Title: 4th International Workshop on Foundations of Models and Languages for Data and Objects: Modeling Database Dynamics  
Location: Volksö, Germany.  
Contact: Udo Lipick, Institut für Informatik, Universität Hannover, Lange Laube 22, D-W 3000 Hannover 1, Germany, tel: (+49 10) 511-762-4950.  
Email: ul@informatik.uni-hannover.de

Date: October 25 - 27  
Title: 1992 Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science  
Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.  
Acronym: FOCS '92.  
Contact: Gary Miller, School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890, USA.  
Email: gnmiller@cs.cmu.edu

Date: October 26 - 29  
Title: Fifth Workshop on Software Reuse  
Location: Palo Alto, California, USA.  
Email: griss@hpl.hp.com

Date: October 26 - 29  
Title: 3rd International Conference on Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning  
Acronym: KR '92.  
Location: Cambridge, Mass., USA.  
Sponsor: AAAI and CSCSI in coop. w/ECCAI and IJCAI.  
Contact: William Swartout, USC/Information Sciences Inst., 4676 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292-6695; tel: (213) 822-1511; fax: (213) 822-6714.  
Email: swartout@isi.edu

Date: October 26 - 30  
Title: Joint 9th WADT - Compass Workshop, Ninth Workshop on Specification of Abstract Data Types joint with the Fourth COMPASS Workshop  
Location: Caldes de Malavella, Spain.  
Email: orejas@lsi.upc.es

Date: October 28 - 30  
Title: 3rd Eurographics Workshop on Object-Oriented Graphics  
Location: Switzerland.  
Contact: Eurographics Workshop on Object-Oriented Graphics, Centre Univ. d'Informatique, 12 rue du Lac, CH-1207, Geneva, Switzerland, Tel: 41 (22) 787 65 85, Fax: 41 (22) 735 39 05.
October 28 - 30

4th Italian Conference on Theoretical Computer Science

Location: L'Aquila, Italy.

Title: 4th Italian Conference on Theoretical Computer Science

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Location: L'Aquila, Italy.

Title: 4th Italian Conference on Theoretical Computer Science

Location: L'Aquila, Italy.
December 18 - 20
Twelfth Conference on the Foundations of Software Technology and Theoretical Computer Science
New Delhi, India.

January 11 - 13
The Twentieth Annual ACM SIGPLAN-SIGACT Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages
Charleston, South Carolina, USA.
(Prograrn Chair) Susan L. Graham, Computer Science Division - EECS, 571 Evans Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA, tel. (510) 642-2059.

February 25 - 27
STACS '93
Professor Dr. Karus W. Wagner, Lehrstuhl für Theoretische Informatik, Universität Würzburg, Am Huberstraß 3, 8700 Würzburg, Germany, phone: +49-931-887810

March 16 - 18
International Conference on Typed Lambda Calculi and Applications
Utrecht, The Netherlands.
Mr Frans Snijders, CWI, P.O. BOX 4079, 1009 AB Amsterdam, The Netherlands, tel. +31-20-5924171, fax. +31-20-5924159.

March 24 - 26
Second Int'l Workshop on Software Reusability
Lucca, Italy.
Ruben Prieto-Diaz, Software Productivity Consortium, 2214 Rock Hill Rd., Herndon, VA 22071, tel: (703) 742-7107, fax: (703) 742-7300.

April 13 - 16
Seventh Int'l Parallel Processing Symp.
Newport Beach, California, USA.

April 13 - 17
TAPSOFT '93 (CAAP FASE Advanced Seminar)
Orsay, France.
June 16-18
Fifth International Conference on Rewriting Techniques and Applications
Montreal, Canada.
Contact: Claude Kirchner, RTA-93, INRIA Lorraine & CRIN, Campus scientifique, 615 rue du Jardin Botanique, BP 101, 54602 Villers-Nes-Neassy CEDEX, France. tel. (33) 83 59 30 11, fax. (33) 83 27 83 19.
Email: Claude.Kirchner@loria.fr
Or: Mitsuhiro Okada, RTA-93, Department of Computer Science, Concordia University, H3G1M8 Montréal, Québec, Canada. tel. (1) (514) 848 30 48, fax. (1) (514) 848 28 30.
Email: RTA93@concur.cs.concordia.ca

June 16-18
6th International Conference on Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering
San Francisco, Calif., USA.
Contact: Bruce I. Blum, Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins Univ., Laurel, MD 20723-6099; tel. (301) 953-6235, fax. (301) 953-6904.
Email: bbl@aplcomm.jhuapl.edu
Email: chang@lockheed.com

June 21-25
The 14th International Conference on Application and Theory of Petri Nets
Bismarck Hotel, Chicago, USA.
Contact: prof. T. Murata, Dept. of EECS (m/e 154), Univ. of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), P.O. Box 4348, Chicago, IL 60680, USA.
Email: pm93@uicbert.eecs.uic.edu

June 22-25
Third International Conference on Algebraic Methodology and Software Technology
University of Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands.
Abstract to: AMAST Conference, University of Twente, Fac. Informatica, PO Box 217, NL-7500AE Enschede, The Netherlands.
Or Canada: V.S. Alagar, Concordia University, Dept. of Computer Science, 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8, Canada. tel. +1 514 8483022, fax. +1 514 8483000.
Email: alagar@concordia.concordia.ca.
Or Europe: Charles Rattray, University of Stirling, Dept. of Mathematics and Computing Science, Stirling, Scotland, FK9 4LA, Great Britian, tel. +44 796 73171, fax. +44 796 64551.
Or: Teodor Rus, University of Iowa, Dept. of Computer Science, Iowa City, IA 52242, USA, tel. +1 319 3350742, fax. +1 319 3350627.
Email: rus@euiowa.uiowa.edu.

June 28-30
2nd International Workshop Logic Programming and Non-Monotonic Reasoning
Ljubljana, Slovenia.
Contact: Ani Nerode, Mathematical Sciences Institute, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY 14853.

July 5-9
20th International Colloquium on Automata, Languages, and Programming
Lund, Sweden.
Acronym: ICALP-93.
Contact: Prof. Rolf Karlsson, Department of Computer Science, Lund University, S-221 00 Lund, Sweden.
Email: icalp93@dms1th.se

Date: April 19 - 23
Title: Industrial Strength Formal Methods
Location: Odense Technical College, Denmark.
Acronym: FME'93.
Contact: Programme Chairman, Jim C.P. Woodcock, Oxford University Computing Laboratory, Programming Research Group, 11 Keble Road, Oxford OX1 3QD, UK; tel. +44 865 272576, fax. +44 865 273839.
Email: jmwh6pr.ox.ac.uk
Or: Organising Chairman, Peter Gorm Larsen, The Institute of Applied Computer Science (IFADI), Forskerparken 10, DK-5230 Odense M, Denmark, tel. +45 65 93 23 00, fax. +45 65 93 29 99.
Email: peter@godlab.dk

Date: April 19 - 23
Title: 9th International Conference on Data and Engineering
Location: Vienna, Austria.
Contact: Erich J. Neuhold, GMD-FISI, Dolivostrasse 15, D-6100 Darmstadt, Germany; tel. (+49) 6151 869 803.
Email: dermisand@gmd.de

Date: May 16 - 18
Title: 25th Annual ACM Symposium on the Theory of Computing 1993
Location: San Diego, Calif., USA.
Sponsor: SIGACT.
Contact: David S. Johnson, AT&T Bell Labs, 600 Mountain Ave., Rm. 2D-150, Murray Hill, NJ 07974; tel. (908) 582-4742.
Email: dsj@research.att.com

Date: May 17 - 21
Title: 15th International Conference on Software Engineering
Location: Baltimore, Maryland, USA.
Contact: Victor R. Basili, Department of Computer Science, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742, USA; tel. (301) 405-2668.
Email: basili@cs.umd.edu

Date: May 25 - 28
Title: The 13th International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems
Location: Pittsburgh Hilton, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.
Contact: Benjamin W. (Ben) Wah, Coordinated Science Laboratory, University of Illinois, MC228, 1501 W. Springfield Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801-3082; tel: (217) 333-3516, fax: (217) 244-7175.
Email: b-wah@uiuc.edu

Date: June 14 - 17
Title: The 5th Asian Logic Conference
Location: National University of Singapore, Republic of Singapore.
Contact: The 5th ACLC, Department of Mathematics, National University of Singapore, Singapore 0511, Republic of Singapore.
Email: matlogic@nuscc.nus.sg OR matlogic@nusvm.bitnet

Date: June 15 - 18
Title: 7th International Symposium on Methodologies for Intelligent Systems
Location: Trondheim, Norway.
Contact: Jan Kromski, Univ. of Trondheim, Norwegian Institute of Technology, Dept. EE and Comp. Sci, N-7034 Trondheim, Norway.
Email: jank@dit.unit.no
Or: Zbigniew W. Ras, UNC-Charlotte, Dept. of Comp. Sci., Charlotte, NC 28223.
Date: August 23 - 27
Title: Fundamentals of Computation Theory
Location: Szeged, Hungary.
Acronym: FCT'93
Contact: T. Gács or J. Virágh, Bolyai Institute, A. József University, 6721 Szeged, Aradi v. terc 1., Hungary, fax 36-62-12292.
Email: h754csi@ella.hu, h1299ga@ella.hu, J68A004@HUSZEG11