

The 9th annual state of SoSyM report

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Another year has gone by and we are happy to report that the International Journal on Software and Systems Modeling (SoSyM) continues to do well in terms of a steady stream of submissions, quality of published papers, and average review turnaround time. Of particular significance is the first release of SoSyM's impact factor, which, notably, is 1.533. As we have done on previous anniversaries, we take this opportunity to give a "state of the journal" report and to acknowledge the reviewers, editors, and publication staff that have contributed to the journal's very good performance in the past year.

The 2010 "State of the Journal" report

SoSyM has been included in the Science Citation Index expanded since 2009. The Citation Index currently covers issues from volume 6/1, 2007 and onwards. SoSyM's first impact factor, published in October 2010, is 1.533. This value is based on data from a single year. The value reflects the growing reputation of SoSyM as a high quality journal. Over the next 2 years, additional yearly data will be added so that in 3 years the impact factor will cover the first 3-year window of data.

We continue to have a steady stream of submissions. In 2010, 96 new manuscripts were submitted to SoSyM. Of these, 50% were reviewed for regular issues, while the other 50% were submitted for special or theme sections. The average number of days from submission to a final decision (accept or reject) was approximately 220 in 2010. It should be noted that this time includes the time authors spend on making major revisions (typically 3 months). The average number of days from first submission to a first decision was approximately 96. The number of months to online publication of an accepted paper has continued to drop and is now just under 1 month. We will continue to work on improving the review turnaround time.

The current acceptance rate for regular papers is 21%. 11% of the papers were accepted after major revision, and 10% were accepted after minor revision as a first decision. The acceptance rate for special or theme section papers is 25%, of which 22% were accepted after major revision and 3% were accepted after minor revision. The current publication pipeline is just below 1 year. Accepted papers are available online soon after acceptance, and thus the pipeline should not pose a significant problem to accepted authors.

The rather timely turnaround of papers and the high quality of accepted papers are a result of the excellent effort the editors and reviewers put into the review process. We understand how difficult it is to balance editorial and review responsibilities with other pressing responsibilities and thus we greatly appreciate the work performed by our editors and reviewers on behalf of SoSyM.

Below we list the reviewers who reviewed one or more papers for the journal in the last year. A complete list of reviewers can be found on our website <http://www.sosym.org/>.

Marco Aiello, Ian Alexander, Daniel Amyot, Sven Apel, Joao Araujo, Colin Atkinson, Joanne Atlee, Orlando Avila, Franck Barbier, Luciano Baresi, Balbir Barn, Benoit Baudry, Jorn Bettin, Brian Blake, Mireille Blay-Fornarino, Christoph Bockisch, Peter Bollen, Behzad Bordbar, Artur Boronat, Jonathan Bowen, Gyrd Brandeland, Christoph Brandt, Lionel Briand, Phil Brooke, Achim D. Brucker, Jordi Cabot, Artur Caetano, Daniela Cancila, Sven Castelyn, Walter Cazzola, María Victoria Cengarle, Joanna Chimiak-Opoka, Wei-Ngan Chin, Tony Clark, Manuel Clavel, Sholom Cohen, Philippe Collet, Sara Comai, Vittorio Cortellessa, Fabio Costa, Jorge R. Cuellar, Guglielmo De Angelis, Juan de Lara, Olga De Troyer, Serge Demeyer, Ewen Denney, Dirk Deridder, Davide Di Ruscio, Ada Diaconescu, Oscar Díaz, Juergen

Dingel, Zinovy Diskin, Damiano Distanto, Joerg Doerr, Heiko Dörr, Nikos Drivalos, Stéphane Ducasse, Laurence Duchien, Keith Duddy, Alexander Egyed, Gregor Engels, Huascar Espinoza, João Miguel Fernandes, Franck Fleurey, Joan Fons, Howard Foster, Jorge Fox, Piero Fraternali, Marcelo Frias, Mathias Fritzsche, Lidia Fuentes, Harald Gall, Alessandro Garcia, Dragan Gasevic, Geri Georg, Jeremy Gibbons, Holger Giese, Tudor Girba, Stefania Gnesi, Michael Goedicke, Paul Grace, Emanuel S. Grant, Vincenzo Grassi, Jeff Gray, Wolfgang Grieskamp, Andreas Griesmayer, Roy Grønmo, Paul Gruenbacher, John Grundy, Dimitar Guelev, Esther Guerra, Qiang Guo, Charles Haley, Oystein Haugen, Kelly Hayhurst, Reiko Heckel, Loic Helouet, Thomas Hettel, Robert Hirschfeld, Karsten Hoelscher, John Gordon Hosking, Pavel Hruby, Michaela Huhn, Heinrich Hussmann, Cedric Jeanneret, Bertrand Jeannet, Jan Juerjens, Kyo Kang, Gerti Kappel, Rick Kazman, Steven Kelly, Pierre Kelsen, Stuart Kent, Dae-Kyoo Kim, Alexander Knapp, Nora Koch, Dimitrios Kolovos, Frank Alexander Kraemer, Ingolf Krueger, Ivan Kurtev, Sabine Kuske, Jochen M. Küster, Yvan Labiche, Philippe Lahire, Philippe Lalanda, Ralf Lämmel, Kevin Lano, Jaejoon Lee, Sorin Lerner, Timothy C. Lethbridge, Martin Leucker, Xuandong Li, Torsten Lodderstedt, David Lowe, Mass Soldal Lund, Mircea Lungu, Robyn Lutz, Jonathan I. Maletic, Chris Mattmann, Tom Mens, Dominique Mery, Huaikou Miao, Martin Monperrus, Leon Moonen, Sandro Morasca, Ana Moreira, Nathalie Moreno, Joost Noppen, Ileana Ober, Mizuhito Ogawa, Samia Oussena, Chun Ouyang, Barbara Paech, Richard Paige, Marc Pantel, Francesco Parisi-Presicce, Vicente Pelechano, Isabelle Perseil, Dorina C. Petriu, Alain Picard, Alfonso Pierantonio, Ivan Porres, Christopher Power, Alexander Pretschner, Jolyta Ralyté, Gianna Reggio, Wolfgang Reisig, Steven Reiss, Arend Rensink, Steve Riddle, Eduardo Rivera, Ken Robinson, Noemi Rodriguez, Markus Roggenbach, Michael Rosemann, Gustavo Rossi, Ella Roubtsova, Nicolas Rouquettes, Andreas Rummler, Ragnhild Kobro Runde, Eric Rutten, Houari Sahraoui, Fernando Sanchez, Pete Sawyer, Andy Schürr, Wieland Schwinger, Bran Selic, Michael Shin, Terje Sivertsen, James Skene, Michal Smialek, Dennis B. Smith, Athanasios Staikopoulos, Jim Steel, Martin Steffen, Friedrich Steimann, Perdita Stevens, Ketil Stølen, Harald Störrle, Mark Strembeck, Vijayan Sugumaran, Yu Sun, Jun Suzuki, Dalila Tamzalit, Massimo Tisi, Peer Torngren, Laurence Tratt, Stavros Tripakis, Salvador Trujillo, Antonio Vallecillo, Juan Manuel Vara, Dániel Varró, Gergely Varró, R Venkatesh, Eelco Visser, Markus Voelter, Andrzej Wasowski, Heike Wehrheim, Zhao Weidong, Thomas Weigert, Frank Weil, Jules White, Xaver Wiesmann, Reinhard Wilhelm, Manuel Wimmer, Andreas Winter, Andres Yie, Eric Yu, Nicola Zannone, Uwe Zdun, and Steffen Zschaler.

We also take this opportunity to thank the Springer publishing staff that provided invaluable services, namely:

Hermann Engesser, Gabriele Stjepanovic, Dorothea Glaunsinger, and Rajagopal Balaji. They all provided excellent assistance during the year. In particular, Hermann Engesser continuously provided us with indispensable assistance on all matters related to the management of the journal.

Last but certainly not least, the editors-in-chief thank the assistant editors, namely Geri Georg who handles regular papers, and Martin Schindler who handles special and theme sections, expert papers, and manages the publication process for all accepted papers.

The journal's reputation and quality is a direct result of the outstanding support provided by authors, reviewers, editors, and the publishing staff. The editors-in-chief are committed to ensuring that the journal continues to play an important role in the dissemination of knowledge in the software-based system modeling community. Finally, we thank you, the reader, for your support of SoSyM. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your comments about the journal.

Contents in this issue

The papers in this issue include two themed papers discussing traceability in MDE. The first, “VbTrace: Using View-based and Model-driven Development to Support Traceability in Process-driven SOAs”, by Huy Tran, Uwe Adun, and Schahram Dustdar, discusses a view-based, model-driven technique used to trace process element dependencies across multiple levels of abstraction and granularity.

The second paper in this theme is “Semantics of Trace Relations in Requirements Models for Consistency Checking and Inferencing”, by Arda Goknil, Ivan Kurtev, Klaas van den Berg, and Jan-Willem Veldhuis. This paper presents a formal definition of relations between requirements that allows relation consistency analysis and also the inference of new relations between requirements.

This issue also contains an Expert Voice paper by Mike Hinchey, Joaquin Peña, Christopher Rouff, and Antonio Ruiz-Cortés, titled “Modeling NASA Swam-Based Systems Using Agent-Oriented Software Engineering and Formal Methods”. This paper discusses how formal modeling approaches can be used to reduce mission and operation costs in complex NASA systems.

The issue ends with three regular papers. The first is “Synthesis of Test Scenarios Using UML Activity Diagrams”, by Ashalatha Nayak and Debasis Samanta. This paper addresses the problem of correctly identifying all paths through an activity diagram that includes nested control constructs. The approach uses a transformation of categorized constructs into a model where all possible paths can be identified.

The second paper is “Design Verification in Model-based μ -Controller Development Using an Abstract Component” by Yunja Choi and Christian Bunse. This paper presents

a design verification approach for embedded systems that utilizes component abstraction. This abstraction encourages increased reuse and also reduces the complexity of verification.

The third paper is “Exploring Inconsistencies between Model Transition Systems” by Marsha Chechik, Mathieu Sassolas, and Sebastian Uchitel. This paper presents an approach to exploring inconsistencies in behavioral models of a single system, but produced from different sources. The approach uses Modal Transition Systems, which allow modelers to explore a compact representation of all inconsistency explanations.

We hope you enjoy reading the articles in this issue. We also hope you enjoyed reading all the papers that were published in SoSyM this year.

Robert France, Bernhard Rumpe
Editors in Chief
Geri Georg, Martin Schindler
Assistant Editors