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Models, Languages, and Tools for Concurrent and Distributed Programming


Essays Dedicated to Rocco De Nicola
on the Occasion of His 65th Birthday

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Rocco De Nicola

Preface

This Festschrift volume contains the 27 papers written by close collaborators and friends of Rocco De Nicola to celebrate him on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

Rocco De Nicola has made seminal contributions to concurrency theory, semantics of programming languages, distributed systems, and logic in computer science. He is also contributing to a wide variety of other emerging topics in which theoretical foundations can have a tremendous effect on the practice of computing. His many scientific achievements are documented by more than 180 papers he published in international journals, proceedings of high-quality conferences and workshops, and refereed chapters in books with international editors.

The papers gathered in this book present many research ideas that have been influenced by Rocco's work. They testify to his intellectual curiosity, versatility, and tireless research activity, and provide an overview of further developments to come.

The volume consists of six sections. The first one contains a laudatio illustrating the distinguished career and the main scientific contributions by Rocco and a witness of working experiences with Rocco. The remaining five sections comprise scientific papers related to specific research interests of Rocco:

- Observational Semantics
- Coordination Models and Languages
- Logics and Types
- Distributed Systems Modelling
- Security

Each scientific contribution has undergone the scrutiny of two anonymous reviewers. We would like to thank all of them for their assistance.

This volume was presented to Rocco on July 1, 2019, during a two-day symposium held in Lucca at the IMT School for Advanced Studies. During the symposium all papers were presented by one of the authors. The symposium was attended by many other colleagues and friends of Rocco. We thank all of them for having accepted our invitation.

We are grateful to Mirco Tribastone and the System Modelling and Analysis group at IMT for the local organization of the symposium and to the IMT School for Advanced Studies for financial support. We would also like to thank Alfred Hofmann and the Springer LNCS team for their support during the publication of this volume, and the providers of the conference management system EasyChair, which was used to run the submission and review process and to facilitate the preparation of the proceedings.

People who have contributed to the present volume in honour of Rocco have had the opportunity to know him professionally over the years. Many have collaborated with him and in doing so have been fortunate to spend time with him. Each of us has taken something significant from this personal contact. Rocco was, and is, a true “scientific

dad” for several of us and a loyal scientific collaborator for all of us. Passionate about research, curious about the new, never stinting with his knowledge or with his contacts, he has always stimulated new collaborations, both within and without his group. He has always encouraged the dignity and self confidence that any collaborator must have to work well. He made you feel you were a researcher ‘at the same level’ — part of a team, a real ‘school for researchers’ for younger colleagues. He could joke when he had to control excessive enthusiasm, be serious and rigorous when he had to arrive at the ‘qed’. We have always appreciated his ability to transform competition within the group into a stimulus to do better, to grow faster. Thanks for everything, Rocco!

July 2019

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Contents

Homage from Friends

From Tuscany to Scotland and Back: A Homage to Rocco de Nicola for His 65th Birthday	3
<i>Ugo Montanari</i>	
Building International Doctoral Schools in Computer Science in Italy, De Nicola's Way	7
<i>Luca Aceto, Gianlorenzo D'Angelo, Michele Flammini, Omar Inverso, Ludovico Iovino, and Catia Trubiani</i>	

Observational Semantics

An Equational Characterisation of the Must Testing Pre-order for Regular Processes	15
<i>Matthew Hennessy</i>	
Testing Equivalence vs. Runtime Monitoring	28
<i>Luca Aceto, Antonis Achilleos, Adrian Francalanza, Anna Ingólfssdóttir, and Karoliina Lehtinen</i>	
Reward Testing Equivalences for Processes	45
<i>Rob van Glabbeek</i>	
Playing with Bisimulation in Erlang	71
<i>Ivan Lanese, Davide Sangiorgi, and Gianluigi Zavattaro</i>	
Genesis and Evolution of ULTRAS: Metamodel, Metaequivalences, Metaresults	92
<i>Marco Bernardo</i>	

Coordination Models and Languages

X-KLAIM Is Back.	115
<i>Lorenzo Bettini, Emanuela Merelli, and Francesco Tiezzi</i>	
A Distributed Ledger Technology Based on Shared Write-Once Objects	136
<i>Eva Maria Kuehn</i>	
Testing for Coordination Fidelity	152
<i>Yehia Abd Alrahman, Claudio Antares Mezzina, and Hugo Torres Vieira</i>	

Data-Driven Choreographies à la Klaim	170
<i>Roberto Bruni, Andrea Corradini, Fabio Gadducci, Hernán Melgratti, Ugo Montanari, and Emilio Tuosto</i>	
Different Glasses to Look into the Three Cs: Component, Connector, Coordination	191
<i>Farhad Arbab, Marco Autili, Paola Inverardi, and Massimo Tivoli</i>	
Logics and Types	
From the Archives of the Formal Methods and Tools Lab: Axiomatising and Contextualising ACTL	219
<i>Stefania Gnesi and Maurice H. ter Beek</i>	
Featherweight Scribble	236
<i>Rumyana Neykova and Nobuko Yoshida</i>	
Embedding RCC8D in the Collective Spatial Logic CSLCS	260
<i>Vincenzo Ciancia, Diego Latella, and Mieke Massink</i>	
From Behavioural Contracts to Session Types	278
<i>Alessandro Fantechi, Elie Najm, and Jean-Bernard Stefani</i>	
Modal Epistemic Logic on Contracts: A Doctrinal Approach	298
<i>Paolo Bottoni, Daniele Gorla, Stefano Kasangian, and Anna Labella</i>	
Types for Progress in Actor Programs	315
<i>Minas Charalambides, Karl Palmskog, and Gul Agha</i>	
Event Structure Semantics for Multiparty Sessions	340
<i>Ilaria Castellani, Mariangiola Dezani-Ciancaglini, and Paola Giannini</i>	
Distributed Systems Modelling	
Process Calculi for Modelling Mobile, Service-Oriented, and Collective Autonomic Systems	367
<i>Martin Wirsing and Rolf Hennicker</i>	
Autonomous Systems – An Architectural Characterization	388
<i>Joseph Sifakis</i>	
Fluidware: An Approach Towards Adaptive and Scalable Programming of the IoT	411
<i>Giancarlo Fortino, Barbara Re, Mirko Viroli, and Franco Zambonelli</i>	
HEADREST: A Specification Language for RESTful APIs	428
<i>Vasco T. Vasconcelos, Francisco Martins, Antónia Lopes, and Nuno Burnay</i>	

Security

Revealing the Trajectories of KLAIM Tuples, Statically.	437
<i>Chiara Bodei, Pierpaolo Degano, Gian-Luigi Ferrari, and Letterio Galletta</i>	
Lightweight Information Flow	455
<i>Flemming Nielson and Hanne Riis Nielson</i>	
A Framework for Provenance-Preserving History Distribution and Incremental Reduction.	471
<i>Alberto Lluch Lafuente</i>	
Utility-Preserving Privacy Mechanisms for Counting Queries	487
<i>Natasha Fernandes, Kacem Lefki, and Catuscia Palamidessi</i>	
Author Index	497