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Leveraging Applications of Formal Methods, Verification and Validation

Applications

9th International Symposium
on Leveraging Applications of Formal Methods, ISoLA 2020
Rhodes, Greece, October 20–30, 2020
Proceedings, Part III

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Introduction

It is our responsibility, as general and program chairs, to welcome the participants to the 9th International Symposium on Leveraging Applications of Formal Methods, Verification and Validation (ISoLA), planned to take place in Rhodes, Greece, during October 20–30, 2020, endorsed by the European Association of Software Science and Technology (EASST).

This year's event follows the tradition of its symposia forerunners held in Paphos, Cyprus (2004 and 2006), Chalkidiki, Greece (2008), Crete, Greece (2010 and 2012), Corfu, Greece (2014 and 2016), and most recently in Limassol, Cyprus (2018), and the series of ISoLA workshops in Greenbelt, USA (2005), Poitiers, France (2007), Potsdam, Germany (2009), Vienna, Austria (2011), and Palo Alto, USA (2013).

Considering that this year's situation is unique and unlike any previous one due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and that ISoLA's symposium touch and feel is much unlike most conventional, paper-based conferences, after much soul searching we are faced with a true dilemma. "Virtualizing" the event, as many conferences have done, violates the true spirit of the symposium, which is rooted in the gathering of communities and the discussions within and across the various communities materialized in the special tracks and satellite events. Keeping with the physical meeting and holding it in a reduced form (as many may not be able to or feel comfortable with travel) under strict social distancing rules may also end up not being feasible. At the time of writing there is a resurgence of cases in several countries, many nations are compiling "green lists" of countries with which they entertain free travel relations, and these lists are updated – most frequently shortened – at short notice, with severe consequence for the travelers. Many governments and universities are again strengthening the travel restrictions for their employees, and many of us would anyway apply caution due to our own specific individual situation.

To be able to react as flexibly as possible to this situation, we decided to split ISoLA 2020 into two parts, one this year and one in October 2021, with the track organizers deciding when their track will take place. So far both dates have promoters, but it may still happen that, in the end, the entire event needs to move. All accepted papers are published in time, but some tracks will present their papers at the 2021 event.

As in the previous editions, ISoLA 2020 provides a forum for developers, users, and researchers to discuss issues related to the adoption and use of rigorous tools and methods for the specification, analysis, verification, certification, construction, test, and maintenance of systems from the point of view of their different application domains. Thus, since 2004, the ISoLA series of events serves the purpose of bridging the gap between designers and developers of rigorous tools on one side, and users in engineering and in other disciplines on the other side. It fosters and exploits synergetic relationships among scientists, engineers, software developers, decision makers, and other critical thinkers in companies and organizations. By providing a specific, dialogue-oriented venue for the discussion of common problems, requirements,

algorithms, methodologies, and practices, ISoLA aims in particular at supporting researchers in their quest to improve the usefulness, reliability, flexibility, and efficiency of tools for building systems, and users in their search for adequate solutions to their problems.

The program of the symposium consists of a collection of special tracks devoted to the following hot and emerging topics:

- Reliable Smart Contracts: State-of-the-art, Applications, Challenges and Future Directions
  (Organizers: Gordon Pace, César Sànchez, Gerardo Schneider)
- Engineering of Digital Twins for Cyber-Physical Systems
  (Organizers: John Fitzgerald, Pieter Gorm Larsen, Tiziana Margaria, Jim Woodcock)
- Verification and Validation of Concurrent and Distributed Systems
  (Organizers: Cristina Seceleanu, Marieke Huisman)
- Modularity and (De-)composition in Verification
  (Organizers: Reiner Hähnle, Eduard Kamburjan, Dilian Gurov)
- Software Verification Tools
  (Organizers: Markus Schordan, Dirk Beyer, Irena Boyanova)
- X-by-Construction: Correctness meets Probability
  (Organizers: Maurice H. ter Beek, Loek Cleophas, Axel Legay, Ina Schaefer, Bruce W. Watson)
- Rigorous Engineering of Collective Adaptive Systems
  (Organizers: Rocco De Nicola, Stefan Jähnichen, Martin Wirsing)
- Automated Verification of Embedded Control Software
  (Organizers: Dilian Gurov, Paula Herber, Ina Schaefer)
- Automating Software Re-Engineering
  (Organizers: Serge Demeyer, Reiner Hähnle, Heiko Mantel)
- 30 years of Statistical Model Checking!
  (Organizers: Kim G. Larsen, Axel Legay)
- From Verification to Explanation
  (Organizers: Holger Herrmanns, Christel Baier)
- Formal methods for DIStributed COmputing in future RAILway systems (DisCoRail 2020)
  (Organizers: Alessandro Fantechi, Stefania Gnesi, Anne Haxthausen)
- Programming: What is Next?
  (Organizers: Klaus Havelund, Bernhard Steffen)

With the embedded events:

- RERS: Challenge on Rigorous Examination of Reactive Systems (Falk Howar, Markus Schordan, Bernhard Steffen)
- Doctoral Symposium and Poster Session (A. L. Lamprecht)
- Industrial Day (Falk Howar, Johannes Neubauer, Andreas Rausch)

Colocated with the ISoLA symposium is:

- STRESS 2020 – 5th International School on Tool-based Rigorous Engineering of Software Systems (J. Hatcliff, T. Margaria, Robby, B. Steffen)

Altogether the ISoLA 2020 proceedings comprises four volumes, Part 1: Verification Principles, Part 2: Engineering Principles, Part 3: Applications, and Part 4: Tools, Trends, and Tutorials, which also covers the associated events.

We thank the track organizers, the members of the Program Committee and their referees for their effort in selecting the papers to be presented, the local organization chair, Petros Stratis, and the EasyConferences team for their continuous and precious support during the entire two-year period preceding the events, and Springer for being, as usual, a very reliable partner for the proceedings production. Finally, we are grateful to Kyriakos Georgiades for his continuous support for the website and the program, and to Markus Frohme and Julia Rehder for their help with the editorial system Equinocs.

Special thanks are due to the following organization for their endorsement: EASST (European Association of Software Science and Technology) and Lero – The Irish Software Research Centre, and our own institutions – TU Dortmund University and the University of Limerick.

We wish you, as an ISoLA participant, a wonderful experience at this edition, and for you, reading the proceedings at a later occasion, valuable new insights that hopefully contribute to your research and its uptake.

August 2020

Tiziana Margaria
Bernhard Steffen

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