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Frank de Boer · Marcello Bonsangue Jan Rutten (Eds.)

# It's All About Coordination

Essays to Celebrate the Lifelong Scientific Achievements of Farhad Arbab



Editors
Frank de Boer
Centre for Mathematics
and Computer Science
Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Marcello Bonsangue Leiden University Leiden The Netherlands Jan Rutten
Centre for Mathematics
and Computer Science
Amsterdam
The Netherlands

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Farhad Arbab

#### **Preface**

Having Iranian, American, and Dutch nationality, Farhad Arbab is a citizen of the world, a fact that is reflected not only by his personality and views of life, but also by his scientific career.

Farhad was born in Iran and got his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering at Sharif University in Tehran, in July 1976. One year later, he obtained his master's degree in computer science, again at Sharif, in August 1977. Before and during his university studies, Farhad found the time for various other activities. He worked as a computer systems analyst and as a system engineer at various companies in Tehran, including IBM, and married Hamideh Afsarmanesh, in March 1977.

Newly wed and freshly graduated, Farhad moved to the United States, in the Fall of the same year, to start his PhD studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He obtained his PhD degree in 1982, by defending a thesis with the somewhat mysterious (at least, to some of us) title "Requirements and Architecture of a CAM-Oriented CAD System for Design and Manufacture of Mechanical Parts." In the period 1980–1989, i.e., both during and after his PhD studies, Farhad held various positions at UCLA, and at the University of Southern California (USC). And again, life was more than only science: Hamideh and Farhad became the proud parents of two beautiful daughters, Taraneh in 1985 and Mandana in 1987.

On his way to a third nationality, then, Farhad moved to Amsterdam, in January 1990, to start the Dutch branch of his career at CWI, a position he combined later, in 2014, with an appointment as professor at the University of Leiden.

All in all, Farhad worked in different countries, in various fields, on many diverse subjects, a border-crossing experience which led to scientific explorations in various directions.

In the United States, Farhad worked in the fields of computer graphics, solid modeling, and computer-aided design and manufacturing of mechanical parts. At CWI, in the 1990s, Farhad worked on the design, implementation, and applications of Manifold: a coordination language for managing the interactions among cooperating autonomous concurrent processes in heterogeneous distributed computing environments. Over the years, the scope of Farhad's research at CWI became wider still, including software composition, service-oriented computing, component-based software, concurrency theory, coordination models and languages, parallel and distributed computing, visual programming environments, constraints, logic and object-oriented programming.

Here we would like to highlight the foundational contributions of Farhad to the field of coordination models and languages. His insight that it is all about exogenous coordination gave rise to the IWIM (idealized workers and idealized managers) model for coordination of concurrent activities, which emphasized the basic separation of concerns between computation and coordination. This line of research culminated in the striking elegance and beauty of Reo: an exogenous coordination model whose formal semantics is based on a calculus of channel composition. This powerful

#### VIII Preface

declarative model of coordination offers a visual glue-code language for the construction of coordinating connectors in distributed, mobile, and dynamically reconfigurable component-based systems. Reo has been extremely successful and is having a great impact in many of the areas mentioned here, as is illustrated by the high number of citations of Farhad's scientific publications.

We believe that it took someone as talented as Farhad, capable of crossing boundaries, to be able to observe and distill the essence of interaction, communication, and coordination, and to come up with the definition of Reo.

On the occasion of Farhad's retirement, the present volume collects a number of papers by several of Farhad's close collaborators over the years. On behalf of all your friends in science, we wish you all the best, Farhad!

March 2018

Frank de Boer Marcello Bonsangue Jan Rutten

## **Organization**

This festschrift was organized by Farhad's colleagues and friends Frank de Boer, Marcello Bonsangue, and Jan Rutten. We are grateful to Susanne van Dam for her help. We acknowledge the Centrum Wiskunde en Informatica (CWI) for the support in the organization of the associated workshop.

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