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Theory and Practice of Model Transformations

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Preface

Model transformations are the glue that tie modelling activities together. If you've used modelling in anger then, whether you know it or not, you've used model transformations. They come in all shapes and sizes from moving models between different tools to generating implementations. Model transformations have humble beginnings—at one point, not long ago, it was said by many 'in the know' that the way forward in model transformations was to use XSLT. That this idea now raises a wry smile shows how far the model transformation community has come in a short time. Where once model transformations were hacked together in a variety of unsuitable languages, we now have a number of powerful, dedicated languages and theories at our disposal.

Since 2008, the ICMT conference series has played a huge part in advancing the subject, and this third edition was no different. The theories and languages presented at ICMT have allowed principled model transformations to play an ever greater part in real systems. Of course there is still much more to do: we need our model transformations, languages, and theories to scale further, allow greater expressivity, be more flexible, and aid reusability; and we lack empirically backed studies of model transformations in use. Doubtless you can think of other gaps. Yet, though some real-world challenges lie just beyond our reach, each year sees once-daunting problems conquered. Much of that progress is now driven by ICMT, and this year's edition showed how model transformations are increasingly being used in previously unfamiliar areas.

ICMT prides itself on transparency: 63 abstracts yielded 58 full submissions, of which 17 were eventually accepted—a 29% acceptance rate. Every paper was reviewed by at least three Programme Committee members. The resulting paper discussion and selection process was lively and detailed, reflecting the strength of the submissions. We were fortunate to have an invited paper and keynote from Stefano Ceri, which provides motivation for modelling and model transformations in a new, exciting, and challenging area.

For each of us, being Chair for this third edition was an honor. Many people helped make this conference what it is. We thank the Programme Committee for their hard work, particularly those who took on extra duties. The Publicity Chair Dennis Wagelaar did a wonderful job at advertising the conference. The ICMT Steering Committee were consistently wise and supportive and some went further than we could reasonably have hoped: Alfonso Pierantonio ran the ICMT 2010 website; Antonio Vallecillo, who doubled as Organizing Chair for the TOOLS Federated Conference as a whole, did wonders in communications; and Richard Paige provided much advice based on his experience as last year's

PC. Last, but certainly not least, we thank ICMT's lifeblood—those who submitted papers. To all these people we give wholehearted thanks!

April 2010

Laurence Tratt
Martin Gogolla

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