Ed Brinksma (Ed.)

Tools and Algorithms for the Construction and Analysis of Systems

Third International Workshop, TACAS'97
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Foreword

This volume contains the proceedings of the Third International Workshop on *Tools and Algorithms for the Construction and Analysis of Systems*, TACAS'97, which was held at the University of Twente at Enschede, The Netherlands, April 2–4 1997. Previous workshops took place in Aarhus (1995) and Passau (1996).

It is the goal of the TACAS workshops to bring together researchers and practitioners interested in the development and application of tools and algorithms for the specification, analysis, and construction of information systems. In particular, it aims to create an atmosphere that promotes a cross-fertilization of ideas between the different communities of theorists, tool-builders, tool-users, and system designers in various specialist areas of computer science. Therefore, in addition to the more or less standard criteria for acceptability, contributions have also been selected on the basis of their conceptual significance to neighbouring areas of specialization. In order to emphasize the practical importance of tools, TACAS allows tool demonstrations to be submitted (and reviewed) on an equal footing with traditional scientific papers, treating them as 'first class citizens'. In practice this entails their presentation in plenary conference sessions, and the integral inclusion of a tool report in the proceedings. The workshop, of course, also organized demonstrations of tools that were not part of the official programme.

In addition to 20 regular papers and 5 tool demonstrations that had been selected out of 54 submissions, the programme of TACAS'97 included invited lectures by three renowned scientists:

- Gérard Berry, Ecole des Mines de Paris and INRIA, Sophia-Antipolis, France, on *Hardware and Software Synthesis from Esterel Programs*,
- Kurt Jensen, University of Aarhus, Denmark, on *Coloured Petri Nets*,
- Zohar Manna, Stanford University, USA, on *Visual Verification*.

TACAS'97 also featured a satellite meeting, viz. the SPIN'97 workshop. This workshop was held at the University of Twente at Enschede following TACAS'97, on April 5, 1997. The SPIN workshops are a meeting point for the international community of users of the SPIN model checking tool.

TACAS'97 was hosted and supported by the University of Twente and its research institute, the Centre for Tele-Informatics and Information Technology. It was sponsored by the Dutch National Graduate School IPA (Institute for Programming research and Algorithmics), CMG, and Siemens-Nixdorf. TACAS'98 will be held in Lisbon as part of the new, confederated European Conference of Theory and Practice of Software, ETAPS'98.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank the TACAS'97 Programme Committee and all the referees, who assisted in the selection of the papers and tool demonstrations. On the local level I would like to thank the University Board for their

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Programme Committee

Referees

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