Workshop on Discrete Event Systems (WODES'04)

The Workshop on Discrete Event Systems (WODES) was held in Reims, France, on 22–24 September 2004. WODES is an international event devoted entirely to discrete event systems. This seventh edition of the conference was organized for the first time as an IFAC workshop. Earlier meetings were held in Prague (1992), Antibes (1994), Edinburgh (1996), Cagliari (1998), Ghent (2000), and Zaragoza (2002). The aim of the workshop is to provide a diverse group of researchers, including control theoreticians, control engineers, software engineers, computer scientists, and operations research specialists, with an opportunity to exchange information, present new ideas, and discuss new developments in the field of discrete event systems.

A total of 129 individuals from 22 countries attended the workshop. The workshop provided an opportunity for novice and advanced members of the discrete event systems community to meet and exchange ideas. Numerous participant comments were positive, indicating that the workshop was a success. Furthermore, many outstanding ideas were presented, mainly in the domains of supervisory control, diagnosis, and performance evaluation of discrete event systems.

In addition to three plenary addresses, the workshop comprised 76 papers from 23 countries. The papers were selected by the International Program Committee (IPC) from 130 submitted papers. The organization of the sessions was as follows:

Champagne was the main theme of the conference, as demonstrated by (from left) Janan Zaytoon (WODES'04 chair), M. Silva (WODES'02 chair), Stéphane Lafortune (WODES'06 cochair), and two next-generation researchers in discrete event systems, Martin Fabia and IEEE Control Systems Magazine *Associate Editor Dawn Tilbury (WODES'06 cochair).*

- Three invited lectures were given by distinguished speakers: "On Optimal and Suboptimal Control in the Presence of Adversaries" by Oded Maler; "Discrete Control Systems for Cars—Quality Is More than Correct Function" by Stefan Kowalewski; and "A Systems Theory View of Petri Nets" by Alessandro Giua, coauthored with Carla Seatzu.
- Two invited sessions on theory and applications of supervisory control were organized by T. Ushio and N. Rakoto, and one invited session on theory and applications of colored Petri nets was organized by C. Seatzu and M.P. Fanti.
- Nine contributed sessions covered the following topics related to discrete event systems: modeling formalisms, verification, control synthesis, diagnosis, scheduling, performance evaluation, and optimization. In addition, two sessions covered the topics of verification, analysis, and control of hybrid systems.
- One poster session included 21 papers.

Based upon the reviews of IPC members and the recommendations of session chairs, 13 applications-oriented papers were selected, and their extended versions will be reviewed for possible inclusion in a special issue of the journal *Control Engineering Practice of IFAC*. To maintain the WODES tradition, some papers will be further reviewed for possible inclusion in a special issue of the *Journal of Discrete Event Dynamic Systems*.

The workshop was sponsored by the IFAC Technical Committee on Discrete Event Dynamic Systems and cosponsored by the IFAC Technical Committee on Control Design and the IFAC Technical Committee on Manufacturing Plant Control. Local sponsorship came from the French Ministry of Research, GDR MACS of CNRS, the Regional Council of Champagne Ardenne, the General Council of Marne, the City of Reims, and the University of Reims Champagne Ardenne. Further information is available at the Web site http://www.univ-reims.fr/Labos/LAM/wodes04/.

Reims, the workshop location, is a city known for the coronation of French kings and for champagne. The Reims Conference Centre venue was pleasant and stimulating for the participants. The banquet took place in the prestigious Champagne House, with "unlimited" champagne. A post-workshop tour was organized to local villages and a traditional "Champagne Crus" was organized.

Mark your calendars for the eighth edition of WODES, which will be held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in July 2006.

—Janan Zaytoon