

PREFACE

This is the second workshop on work related to the SPIN model checker. The program lists fourteen research papers, presented by researchers from eight different countries: Denmark, England, Germany, Spain, France, The Netherlands, Canada, and the USA.

We have tried to add some variation to the program by adding tool demonstrations and a keynote presentation. We are privileged to have *Moshe Vardi*, Noah Harding professor and chair of Computer Science at Rice University, as our first keynote speaker.

The workshop is sponsored by DIMACS this year (NSF's Science and Technology Center for Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science), as part of their Special Year Program on *Logic and Algorithms*. DIMACS has provided both logistic and financial support. We are especially grateful to Pat Pravat, Sarah Donnelly, Wanglai Li, and Hangbiao Shi for their courteous and efficient help with the preparations, often under time pressure of preparations for other special year events.

The number of places where the SPIN system is installed and used now numbers in the thousands. The program of this year's workshop reflects the nature of the work in formal verification that is triggered or inspired by this system. In four broad categories, there are (1) theoretical studies, (2) significant practical applications, (3) empirical studies of the relative effectiveness of different types of search and storage algorithms, and (4) extensions, and in some cases thorough revisions, of the basic SPIN code.

It is encouraging to note that in each category there are quite a few interesting SPIN projects that did not yet make it onto this year's workshop program. The goal of the SPIN workshop is to create an opportunity for those who work with the SPIN system to meet, learn about each others work, and exchange ideas. We are looking forward to an interesting workshop that fully meets that goal. May there be many more!

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