

ARTES++ Travel Report from

FACS 2005

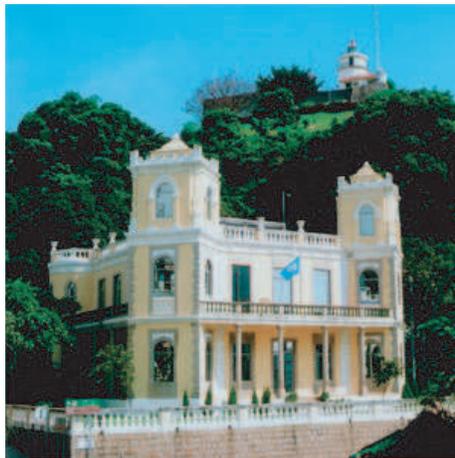
International Workshop on Formal Aspects of Component Software

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The FACS 2005 workshop was held October 24-25, at UNU-IIST (the International Institute of Software Technology of the United Nations University), in Macao, China. Macao is a former Portugese colony west of Hong Kong, mostly known for its gambling opportunities.



The objective of FACS 2005 was to bring together researchers in the areas of component software and formal methods to promote a deep understanding of this paradigm and its applications. Most participants where well versed in formal methods, using for example process algebra, algebraic specifications or timed automata.

Presentations

The first speaker of FACS 2005 was Mike Reed, the director of UNU-IIST, who gave an introduction to the institute and UNU. The mission of UNU-IIST is to help developing countries strengthen their education and research in computer science and their ability to produce computer software.

Farhad Arbab was there giving a presentation of Reo, a coordination model for component composition. The model is very powerful, enabling intricate coordinations to be assembled using a small number of basic connectors. A concern is of course if

such complex connectors are needed, and what cost is associated with this complexity. Another presentation described Reo connectors as being for components what transistors are for computer hardware.

The trend was towards distributed business applications and web services, where dynamic reconfiguration was discussed as a must in order to be called a component model. In all this, my presentation of an analysable component model for real-time systems (SaveCCM) was quite different.

Recommendations

The focus of FACS is quite narrow, so you will probably not consider it unless you are working with formal methods in a context of component software. If you are, the workshop could be worthwhile as you meet other researchers with similar interests.

The workshop proceeding will be published in ENTCS, Electronic Notes in Theoretical Computer Science (Elsevier).

The workshop website

<http://www.iist.unu.edu/facs05>