Report on the International Workshop on Comparison and Versioning of Software Models (CVSM 2014)

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The 2014 issue of the International Workshop Series on Comparison and Versioning of Software Models (CVSM) was co-located with the Software Engineering 2014 (SE2014) conference, February 25 - 28, 2014, Kiel, Germany. It attracted 15 active researchers in this domain. The program included an invited keynote of Prof. Michael Goedicke (U. Duisburg-Essen) on general aspects of artefact management and six regular presentations:

– Thomas Ruhroth, Stefan Gärtner, Jens Bürger, Jan Jürjens, Kurt Schneider: Versioning and Evolution Requirements for Model-Based System Development

– Pit Pietsch, Christian Wurmbach: Towards Synthesizing BPMN2 Test Models for Model differencing Tools

– Stephan Krusche, Bernd Bruegge: Model-based Real-time Synchronization

– Sascha Roth, Florian Matthes: Visualizing Differences of Enterprise Architecture Models – Conceptual Design, Implementation, and End-User Feedback

– Klaus Müller, Bernhard Rumpe: User-Driven Adaptation of Model Differencing Results

– Timo Kehrer, Udo Kelter: Versioning of Ordered Model Element Sets

Three presentations (Ruhroth, Müller, Kehrer) addressed differencing algorithms, one presentation (Roth) the visualization of differences, and one presentation (Krusche) the updating of workspaces. In contrast to previous issues of the workshop series, only one contribution (Pietsch) addressed the problem of developing benchmarks or sets of test models. While the lack of test models is still a pressing issue and is leading to further activities beyond the CVSM community, resources available seem rather limited.

The workshop started with the keynote given by Michael Goedicke who addressed the problem of changing and managing development artefacts, i.e. not only models, from a broader perspective and who proposed future areas of research. He pointed to the competition between model-based development methods and agile methods including, more recently, continuous software engineering methods. The latter lead to a different perception of how changes look like and how they are to be handled. Moreover, agile methods tend to reduce the importance of models or even question their usage in general. Needless to say that models are not the only development artefacts; given the observation that many projects use a bunch of programming and modelling languages in parallel, one challenge is to manage the relationships between heterogeneous development artefacts.

The keynote was very inspiring and led to a lively discussion; the organizers would like to express once more their great appreciation for the keynote.