

Steven D. Eppinger
Maik Maurer
Katharina Eben
Udo Lindemann
(eds.)

Invest on visualization

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The Editors:
Steven D. Eppinger
Maik Maurer
Katharina Eben
Udo Lindemann

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	ix
Program Committee	xi
Part I: DSM Methodology and Complexity Management	
Three Approaches to Complex System Decomposition <i>Noemi Chiriac, Katja Hölttä-Otto, Dusan Lysy and Eun Suk Suh</i>	3
A More Flexible Way of Modeling Structure with Multiple Domains <i>Sebastian Kortler, Bergen Helms, Kristina Shea and Udo Lindemann</i>	19
Structural Analysis Crossing Domain Borders <i>Sindre Kjeang Mørk, Fatos Elezi and Udo Lindemann</i>	31
A Proposal for an Augmented DSM to Assess Product Sustainability <i>Claudio Rocco, Luigi De Napoli and Sergio Rizzuti</i>	45
Part II: Product Architectures	
Analysis and Visualization of Complex Computer Aided Design Models as a Design Structure Matrix <i>Sreeram Bhaskara</i>	61
Approach for a Modularization Driven System Definition Using Multiple Domains <i>Wolfgang Bauer, Charalampos Daniilidis and Udo Lindemann</i>	77
Future-Proof Interfaces: Systematic Identification and Analysis <i>Wolfgang Bauer and Maik Maurer</i>	89
Tracing of Weight Propagation for Modular Product Families <i>Thomas Gumpinger and Dieter Krause</i>	103
Using the FF-DMM Matrix to Represent Functional Flow in Product Architecture <i>Vincent Holley, Bernard Yannou and Marija Jankovic</i>	115
Part III: Software Architectures	
Design Structure of Scientific Software – A Case Study <i>Shahadat Hossain and Ahmed Tahsin Zulkarnine</i>	129
MDM-Based Software Modularization by Analysing Inter-Project Dependencies <i>Alexander Mirson, Oleg Skrypnyuk, Fatos Elezi and Udo Lindemann</i>	143

Modeling Architectural Dependencies to Support Software Release Planning <i>Robert L. Nord, Ipek Ozkaya, Nanette Brown and Raghvinder S. Sangwan</i>	159
Measuring, Tracking, and Communicating Change in Enterprise Systems with a Web-Based Repository <i>Frank Waldman and Neeraj Sangal</i>	173
Part IV: Strategy Development	
Execution Strategy Development Using DSM and Bayesian Belief Network-Value Transformation Approach <i>Ramy El Behery</i>	189
Managing Project Portfolios – The Next Step <i>Richard Grönevall and Mike Danilovic</i>	203
Design for X-Guidelines and Lifecycle Phases with Relevance for Product Planning – An MDM-Based Approach <i>Clemens Hepperle, Wieland Biedermann, Alexander Böcker and Udo Lindemann</i>	215
Expressing and Analysing Goal Models in Design Structure Matrices <i>Ralf Laue</i>	229
Part V: Project and Process Management	
Iteration Management by Identification of Value Stream in Product Development Processes <i>Fatos Elezi, Alvaro Pechuan, Stefan Langer, Arne Herberg, Florian Behncke and Udo Lindemann</i>	247
“Gantt-Like” DSMs <i>Paschal Minogue</i>	259
Modeling of Periodically Correlated Work Processes in Large-Scale Concurrent Engineering Projects Based on the DSM <i>Christopher M. Schlick, Sebastian Schneider and Sönke Duckwitz</i>	273
Part VI: Managing Complex Engineering Design Projects	
Prediction of Communication Structures Based on Product Structures <i>Wieland Biedermann and Udo Lindemann</i>	291
Using DSM Structures to Analyse Uncertainty in Load-Carrying Systems <i>Roland Engelhardt, Tobias Eifler, Herbert Birkhofer and Andrea Bohn</i>	301
Using the PC-SM Matrix to Map Interaction into the Initial Set of Concepts <i>Vincent Holley, Bernard Yannou and Marija Jankovic</i>	313
Using the VoDD Matrix to Bring Design Department Voice in the Choice of Concepts <i>Vincent Holley, Bernard Yannou and Marija Jankovic</i>	325

The Use of Dependence Structure Matrix and SU-Field of TRIZ in Simplifying the Complex Products <i>Ping Jiang, Wei Wang and Runhua Tan</i>	337
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Part VII: Civil Engineering

MDM as a Tool to Improve BIM Development Processes <i>Gernot Hickethier, Iris D. Tommelein, Michelle Hofmann, Baris Lostuvali and Fritz Gehbauer</i>	349
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Integration of BIM and DSM to Improve Design Process in Building Construction Projects <i>Jeevan Jacob and Koshy Varghese</i>	363
--	-----

Managing Complexity in Lean Construction Design – Using the MDM Methodology to Create Organizational Modularity <i>Michael Krinner, Fatos Elezi, Iris D. Tommelein and Udo Lindemann</i>	377
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Part VIII: Applications of DSM Methodology

Ship Design Process Modeling: Capturing a Highly Complex Process <i>Seth Cooper, Gene Allen, Robert Smith, Dan Billingsley and David Helgerson</i>	393
---	-----

Technology Insertion in Turbofan Engine and Assessment of Architectural Complexity <i>James Denman, Sinha Kaushik and Olivier de Weck</i>	407
--	-----

Matrix-Based Methods for Planning and Scheduling Maintenance Projects <i>Judit Kiss, Zsolt Tibor Kosztyán, Anikó Németh and Ferenc Bognár</i>	421
--	-----

DSM-Based Evaluation of Assembly Manufacturing Resources <i>Michael F. Zaeh, Gunther Reinhart, Udo Lindemann, Florian Karl and Wieland Biedermann</i>	435
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Author Index	449
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Keyword Index	451
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FOREWORD

After being held at several locations in USA and Europe, we originally planned for the 2011 DSM Conference to be in Asia for the first time. Our Japanese colleagues had made all the arrangements to host this conference in Kyoto, and the organization activities had been underway one year already when the tsunami catastrophe happened in March 2011. In light of the difficulty travel and business conditions in Japan this year, we decided together with the Japanese organizers to shift the Japan event into the future. Thus, the first Asian DSM conference is not cancelled – it is postponed by a year. On fairly short notice, we then decided for 2011 to bring the conference home to its place of initiation – back to MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts. We want to thank all members of the DSM community who supported us with the arrangements necessary to plan the 2011 DSM Conference on such short notice.

It has become a tradition that the local host chooses the theme line of the DSM conference. Invest in Visualization was originally selected by the Japanese organizers and has been retained as the conference theme for 2011. This is because of the importance of visualization in DSM research and practice. Indeed many important contributions at this year's conference focus on powerful visualization examples and new methods. We hope this will enable additional steps to better embed DSM techniques in the engineering management practice.

The term structural complexity has been widely used in the context of DSM application. We are glad to see this expression appearing more often now in discussions of engineering design. The Managing Structural Complexity special interest group (SIG) of the Design Society includes several members of the DSM community, and everybody is invited to contribute to the important conversation and events of the SIG.

We are very pleased to welcome you to the 13th International DSM Conference.

Steven Eppinger

Maik Maurer

Katharina Eben

Udo Lindemann

The Organizing Committee

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Professor Steven Eppinger, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
Dr. Maik Maurer, Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany
Katharina Eben, Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany
Professor Udo Lindemann, Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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