

Editorial

This issue highlights research in the area of Design Automation. The Design Automation Committee sponsors an annual conference each fall where sessions are generally devoted to theoretical and applied synthesis and analysis of mechanical systems. Topics of interest include optimal design, computer-aided design and engineering, artificial intelligence and robotics, and related areas. An announcement for the Ninth Design Automation Conference and a Call for Papers for the Tenth Design Automation Conference are included in this issue.

The design automation articles selected to appear below focus on optimization and design. The first four papers are based on invited presentations at the Seventh and Eighth Design Automation Conferences. The remaining papers highlight recent research in the development of new optimization techniques, multi-objective optimization, and optimization applications. In subsequent issues, articles on the analysis of mechanical systems will also be presented. An area that is receiving increased attention in the design automation community is that of computer graphics—specifically, the underlying theory and principals as these relate to design automation. We expect to include articles on such topics as they become available.

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