

From: Dr. James Alpigini [mailto:jja7@psu.edu]

Formal Methods in System Design Technical Panel Report

I had to go through surgery again in December, which meant I was down until the end of February. All is finally fixed. In spite of this, I am happy to report some progress with the panel:

The panel met in October. We have decided to employ the unified modeling language (UML) as the vehicle for developing formal methods in design. As an informal textbook, we have adopted: "UML for systems engineering - watching the wheels" by Jon Holt (IEE 2001, ISBN 0 85296 105 7)

We are considering a model of a robot that is designed to walk along power transmission cables. This is an ongoing project in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The system was developed using an ad hoc approach. We plan to recreate the design using the UML, and hopefully will be able to develop a formal(ized) approach to such design.

There are a couple of changes to the panel membership. I will get you the updated list next week for the web page.

All my best,

James