

NEWSLETTER

MODELLING & SIMULATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
AND NEW ZEALAND INC (MSSANZ)



The Society for
Computer Simulation
International



International Association
for Mathematics and
Computers in Simulation



Japan Society for
Simulation Technology

URL: <http://mssanz.org.au>

February, 2005

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to this edition of the Newsletter which contains reports on the 2003 and upcoming 2005 MODSIM Congresses and details of Society award winners. I would also like to take this opportunity to profile some of the recent achievements of the Society.

AWARDS (AND THE AWARDS COMMITTEE)

At the 2003 AGM we established an Awards Committee (as a regular Committee of the Society) to manage the nomination and selection process for fellowships, biennial medals and early career research excellence prizes. The Committee is composed of Fellows of the Society, currently Dora Marinova, Les Oxley and me (as Chair). The Committee 'met by email' during 2004 and made recommendations to the Executive on Fellows. The outcomes were notified to you via email (24/9/2004).

The 2004 Fellows, to be presented at MODSIM 2005, are:

- Professor Colin McKenzie, *Socioeconomic Systems*
- Dr David Post, CSIRO, *Natural Systems*
- Dr Susan Cuddy, CSIRO, *General Systems*

All three have been of great service to the Society and are excellent researchers in their own right – the two criteria for the Award of Fellow. All have been involved in session organisation for a long time at our conferences. David Post was the convenor of MODSIM 03, a very successful meeting. Susan Cuddy is Secretary of MSSANZ and has been the instigator of major efficiencies in the way we do business, including the website functionality.

MODSIM 2003 OUTCOMES

The benefit of a well-run congress goes far beyond the Conference itself. The scientific community benefits – personally through the building and re-affirmation of friendships, networks and alliances; and enduringly through publication of key papers in the international literature. Society members have a strong editorial presence in international journals and I am delighted to inform you that many Congress papers are appearing in special issues of

- *Mathematical and Computer Modelling*
- *Mathematics and Computers in Simulation*
- *Environmental Management*
- *Environmental Modelling and Software*

More information on these special issues is in the MODSIM 2003 report in this newsletter.

A spin-off has also been a 'sister' conference, SIMMOD, held 17-19 January 2005 near Bangkok, Thailand. Dr Santhad Rojanasoonthon, Chair of the Thailand National Research Council, attended MODSIM 2003 with several of his colleagues. He found the experience so valuable that he requested us to assist them set up their own conference, through the Asian Institute of Technology. They used our WCMT (conference management tool for paper submission and review) and followed a similar format to MODSIM. The Conference was well supported by MSSANZ members – it was a very memorable conference, with a good range of papers and wonderful Thai hospitality. Details are at:

<http://www.ise.ait.ac.th/simmod2005/>

PREPARATIONS FOR MODSIM 2005

We have a great team in Andre Zerger, technical program convenor, and Rob Argent, local organisation convenor. They have MODSIM 2005 preparations well in hand. Please take the time to read their report in this newsletter.

PREPARATIONS FOR MODSIM 2007

The 2007 congress is to be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, organised by Don Kulsari, Les Oxley and Vince Bidwell. Many thanks to these members for accepting the challenge. They will have a full report at MODSIM 2005.

HIGHEST HONOURS TO SOCIETY MEMBERS

Professor Clive Granger, MSSANZ Biennial Medallist (2001) and Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences (2003), was awarded a knighthood in the British New Year's Honours 2005.

Les Oxley, a distinguished MSSANZ Fellow, was elected one of the 12 new Fellows of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 2004.

Kimio Morimune, MSSANZ Biennial Medallist (1999) has been elected Vice-President of the Japan Economic Association. He will become President in April 2006.

IN APPRECIATION

While it has been a 'quiet' year, activities associated with keeping the Society running, publishing MODSIM 2003 and organising MODSIM 2005 have been extensive. These activities reflect a real commitment by the Society and its members to advance the science of modelling and simulation and I thank those guest editors and conference convenors warmly for their selfless commitment and professionalism. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those people who keep the society 'ticking over' – these are Susan Kelo and Amanda Letcher – office administration, Sue Cuddy – Secretary, Lachlan Newham – Treasurer, Rob Argent – Public Officer, Michael McAleer – Vice-President, and all members of the Committee.

I can state with confidence that your Society is in good hands and look forward to renewing acquaintances (and making new ones) in Melbourne at MODSIM 2005.

TONY JAKEMAN
MSSANZ President

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CONTENTS

MODSIM 2005 _____	2
Report on MODSIM 2003 _____	3
Biographical sketches of	
2003 Biennial Medallists _____	4
2003 Student Prize winners _____	4
2003 Student commendation recipients _____	4
2003 Early Career Research Excellence (ECRE) Award winners _____	5
2004 Fellows _____	6
Revised Web Site _____	6
Membership _____	6
iEMSs Biennial Meeting, 2006 _____	6
2005 Biennial Medallists - Call for Nominations _____	7
MSSANZ Committee _____	7

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MODELLING AND SIMULATION MODSIM 2005 CALL FOR PAPERS

ADVANCES AND APPLICATIONS FOR
MANAGEMENT AND DECISION MAKING

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, MELBOURNE, VIC, AUST
12-15 DECEMBER, 2005

<http://mssanz.org.au/modsim05>

As many of you aware, MODSIM '05 will be held in Melbourne, Australia from December 12-15, 2005 at the University of Melbourne. The University promises to be an excellent venue with superb audio-visual and lecture theatre facilities, combined with its close proximity to the Melbourne CBD and the surrounding café belt of Carlton. MODSIM05 is being co-convened by Robert Argent (Local Organising) and Andre Zerger (Technical Program). The WWW site is online at <http://mssanz.org.au/modsim05/> and already provides an excellent resource for presenters and delegates. A respected International Advisory Board and Technical Committee has been established with details at the congress website.

Congress planning is well underway with 47 special sessions confirmed in a range of diverse topics. These sessions include relatively new and exciting disciplines including agent based modelling, Bayesian modelling, human ecosystems modelling, modelling in defence and homeland security and spatial planning, to name a few examples. Similarly, the congress will also see a strong representation from traditional special sessions focussing on catchment modelling, decision support systems, modelling frameworks, economics and social applications. As with MODSIM '03 we will be using the Web-Based Conference Management Tool (WCMT), developed by MSSANZ member Andrea Rizzoli, and currently hosted at the University of Melbourne, to manage the paper submission and review process. This was trialled very successfully in Townsville and really streamlined the review and submission process for session organisers, reviewers and paper presenters.

We draw members' attention to some important deadlines including the Abstract Submission Deadline of March 18th and the Paper Submission Deadline of August 12th. One innovation for MODSIM '05 will be the inclusion of an Extended Abstract for each paper which will be reproduced in the Printed Volume of Abstracts. The extended abstract will allow authors to better communicate research findings to delegates. Fully reviewed paper proceedings will be provided in digital format on CD ROMs to all delegates.

Presently the congress convenors are busy advertising the congress as widely as possible and your assistance with this is appreciated. An electronic Congress Brochure is available at <http://mssanz.org.au/modsim05/> under 'Call for Papers'. We encourage you to download this

and distribute it widely amongst your colleagues and students.

We are keen to obtain any feedback or suggestions from MSSANZ members to ensure the success of MODSIM '05. Please contact either Rob or Andre with your suggestions. Finally, we look forward to your involvement in MODSIM '05 as session organisers, paper presenters or as delegates. It's bound to be a great forum to learn about each other's science, to exchange ideas, to catch up with old friends, and to make new friends.

**Andre Zerger and Robert Argent
MODSIM 2005 Convenors**

**REPORT ON
MODSIM 2003 CONGRESS,
TOWNSVILLE AUSTRALIA**

<http://mssanz.org.au/modsim03/proceedings.html>

July in Townsville, what a great time for a conference! And it seems that many people agreed with me as MODSIM 2003, with over 360 delegates, became the best attended MODSIM of all time, narrowly surpassing December 2001 in Canberra.

The conference was held at the magnificent Jupiter's Hotel and Casino in Townsville, and was opened by the Vice Chancellor of James Cook University, Professor Bernard Moulden, who discussed the growth of modelling and asked some excellent and pertinent questions about *why* we model.

The keynote speaker on the first day was Dr Graham Harris who set the scene for the conference very well, prompting much discussion on the role of modelling, how we can incorporate other knowledge into models, and how we should incorporate models into the decision-making process. The keynote speakers for the next three days were no less interesting, with Professor John Norton from the University of Birmingham discussing uncertainty in model prediction; Professor Claudia Pahl-Wostl from the University of Osnabruck discussing integrated assessment models; and Professor Peter Phillips from Yale discussing time series econometrics.

Of course, MODSIM wouldn't be the same without a hectic social calendar, and MODSIM 2003 was no exception. Delegates were treated to a night in Molly Malone's Irish Pub on Sunday night, followed by an official welcome to Townsville from the Deputy Lord Mayor, Ann Bunnell, on Monday night.

The conference dinner was held on Wednesday night, starting with pre-dinner drinks on the banks of the beautiful Ross River, followed by a sumptuous meal in the Museum of North Queensland, with the tables surrounding a replica of the famous Pandora, sunk off Townsville in 1791 while pursuing the mutineers from the Bounty.

Wednesday night also saw the presentation of the 2003 Biennial Medallists, and Early Career Research Excellence (ECRE) Awards. These are listed later in the Newsletter, together with short biographical sketches. Acknowledgement and encouragement of students is a key

objective of the Society and student prize winners, and commendations are awarded in the 3 categories (general, natural and socioeconomic).

For the first time, all of the papers presented at MODSIM 2003 are available for free download from the MSSANZ website (see url at start of this article). We hope that making the papers freely available will encourage their wide distribution.

Extended papers are appearing in the following international journals:

"Application of Natural Computing Methods to Water Resources and Environmental Modelling"
J. of Mathematical and Computer Modelling
Guest Editor – Holger Maier

This issue will contain 11 papers (one from a student commendation - Greer Kingston) showcasing artificial neural network methods for prediction and forecasting, the application of evolutionary algorithms to a variety of optimization problems, and the use of agent-based models for environmental management. Applications addressed include hydrological modelling, the prediction of water quality in and the optimisation of water distribution systems, managing air pollution, cropping systems, fisheries and land usage, and clustering ecological data.

"Selected Papers of the MSSANZ/IMACS 15th Biennial Conference on Modelling and Simulation, Jupiters Hotel & Casino, Townsville, Australia, 14-17 July 2003"
Mathematics and Computers in Simulation
Guest Editors - Michael McAleer, Les Oxley, David Post

This special issue will contain 31 papers, including the keynote presentation by Peter Phillips.

"Modelling Environmental Systems"
Environmental Modelling and Software
Guest Editors – Dora Marinova and David Post

This special issue will contain 17 papers from MODSIM 2003, including all three student prizes, 7 natural, 6 socio-economic and 4 general papers.

"Multi-scale concepts and modelling strategies for sustainable river basin water resource assessment and allocation"
Environmental Management
Guest Editors – Sergei Schreider and Wolfgang Flugel

I commend the MODSIM congresses to you and predict that MODSIM 2005 will be as well attended, professionally productive, and socially enjoyable as this one has been.

**David Post
MODSIM 2003 Convener
CSIRO Land and Water
Townsville**

2003 BIENNIAL MEDALLISTS

NATURAL SYSTEMS	Dr Myriam Bormans
SOCIOECONOMIC SYSTEMS	Professor Peter Phillips
GENERAL SYSTEMS	Professor Hugh Possingham

DR MYRIAM BORMANS - NATURAL SYSTEMS



Myriam Bormans received her BSc in Physics in 1983 at the University of Liege (Belgium) and her PhD in Physical Oceanography in 1988 at Dalhousie University in Halifax (Canada). After a Postdoc at the Research School of Earth Sciences, Australian National University, in the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics group, she joined CSIRO in 1993 to work in the Aquatic Process group.

Her interests include algal and nutrient dynamics and their relationships with physical processes such as flow and wind forcing. She combines field work and modelling to enhance process understanding and develop management strategies for water quality amelioration in rivers and reservoirs. Myriam has recently taken up a position with the French CNRS located at the University of Rhennes.

PROFESSOR PETER C.B. PHILLIPS - SOCIOECONOMIC SYSTEMS



Peter Phillips is Sterling Professor of Economics at Yale University. He is the founding Editor of *Econometric Theory*, and a Fellow of the Econometric Society, the American Statistical Association, the Guggenheim Foundation, MSSANZ,

the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. He received the New Zealand Medal of Science and Technology in 1998, and was NZIER/QANTAS Economist of the Year, 2000.

PROFESSOR HUGH POSSINGHAM - GENERAL SYSTEMS



Hugh Possingham is an Australian Research Council Professional Research Fellow and inaugural Director of The Ecology Centre, at the University of Queensland. This centre has a unifying interest in environmental applications of decision theory and

conducts research on empirical and theoretical aspects of the applied population ecology of plants and animals.

He is the recipient of the Australian POL Eureka Prize for Environmental Research (for collaborative work with Dr David Lindenmayer) - 1999, the inaugural Fenner medal for plant and animal biology from the Australian Academy of Sciences - 2000, and the Australian Mathematical Society Medal - 2001.

2003 STUDENT PRIZE WINNERS

NATURAL SYSTEMS	Lucy Marshall
SOCIOECONOMIC SYSTEMS	Kim Radalj
GENERAL SYSTEMS	Kate Johnson

KATE JOHNSON – GENERAL SYSTEMS



Kate is a PhD candidate at the School of Engineering, James Cook University, Townsville. Kate presented two papers at the conference – one on simulating the response of shallow foundations using finite element modelling, and one on modelling the response of deep foundations under oblique loading.

LUCY MARSHALL - NATURAL SYSTEMS



Lucy Marshall is currently completing a PhD at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia. After completing a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) degree in 2001 and a Master of Engineering Science degree in 2002, Lucy has specialised in the

application of Bayesian and MCMC processes to problems in hydrology.

Lucy is currently developing MCMC approaches for assessing model uncertainty and allowing model comparison. The new research will allow a statistical approach that may be easily applied to a range of hydrological models.

KIM RADALJ – SOCIOECONOMIC SYSTEMS



Kim is a PhD student within the Department of Economics, University of Western Australia, Perth. He presented two papers on speculation at the Congress – one on hedgers, speculators and forward markets: evidence from currency markets, and

the other on speculation and destabilisation.

2003 STUDENT COMMENDATIONS

NATURAL SYSTEMS	Greer Kingston Jose Ruiz Jenifer Ticehurst Leo Lymburner Benjamin Cairns
GENERAL SYSTEMS	Norio Hirao
SOCIOECONOMIC SYSTEMS	Peter Goethals Suhejla Hoti

2003 EARLY CAREER RESEARCH EXCELLENCE (ECRE) AWARDS

NATURAL SYSTEMS	Dr John Gallant Dr Hua Lu
SOCIOECONOMIC SYSTEMS	Dr Jackie Robinson Dr Shiqing Ling
GENERAL SYSTEMS	Dr Grace Mitchell Dr Andre Zerger

DR JOHN GALLANT - NATURAL SYSTEMS



John Gallant is a Research Scientist with CSIRO Land and Water specialising in terrain analysis and spatial hydrology. John's first degree was in Electronic Engineering (RMIT, Melbourne) and he worked as an Engineering Officer in the RAAF from 1985-9. In 1990 he commenced a Master's degree under Professor Ian Moore at The Australian National University studying models of pesticide transport. Subsequent work on terrain analysis and scale effects led to a PhD on scale and structure in landscapes under Professor Michael Hutchinson also at CRES.

John joined CSIRO Land and Water in 1998 and works on the development of terrain analysis methods, applications of terrain analysis to spatial prediction of soil properties, and methods for linking plant water use models with catchment scale hydrology.

DR HUA LU - NATURAL SYSTEMS



Hua Lu is a research scientist with CSIRO Land and Water. She has involvement with broad scale soil erosion and sediment transport modelling work.

Hua has published on a wide range of topics including representation of land-surface processes in Aeolian transport models, predicting sheetwash and rill erosion over the Australian continent, to spatial and seasonal distribution of rainfall erosivity in Australia.

DR GRACE MITCHELL – GENERAL SYSTEMS



Grace Mitchell is a Senior Research Fellow with the Institute for Sustainable Water Resources at Monash University, Melbourne. She has extensive experience in the field of Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) and total urban water cycle planning and modelling.

Focus topics of research have been the development of decision-making frameworks and computer based analysis tools during the planning phases of IUWM implementation, sustainable total

water cycle management of greenfield developments and alternative urban water servicing options.

DR ANDRE ZERGER – GENERAL SYSTEMS



Andre Zerger is a research scientist (Spatial Analyst) with CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems Agricultural Landscapes Program, Canberra having commenced there in March 2003. Prior to his move to Canberra, he spent four years lecturing at the University of Melbourne. In his earlier research

life his interests focussed on the development of spatial methodologies for natural hazard risk reduction with a major focus on flood risk modelling and interfacing models with geographical information systems. He also has a broader research interest in applying geospatial technologies to natural resource management challenges and spatial decision support.

His current research focuses on the development of methods for assessing biodiversity benefits from vegetation enhancement activities, vegetation mapping, and regional scale vegetation condition modelling using GIS, remote sensing and predictive modelling.

DR JACKIE ROBINSON – SOCIOECONOMIC SYSTEMS



Jackie is a lecturer in the Economics Department of the University of Queensland. She specialises in applied natural resource management and evaluation of public sector investment projects utilising cost-benefit, input-output and multiple criteria analysis.

Particular interests include the development of decision-support techniques to assist participatory decision-making.

DR SHIQING LING – SOCIOECONOMIC SYSTEMS



Dr Ling is a researcher at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He is also an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Mathematics and Statistics department at the University of Western Australia.

Recent research topics include exploring the errors in modelling of macroeconomic or financial data with generalised autoregressive conditional heteroskedasticity (GARCH).

2004 FELLOWS

NATURAL SYSTEMS	Dr David Post
SOCIOECONOMIC SYSTEMS	Prof Colin McKenzie
GENERAL SYSTEMS	Susan Cuddy

DR DAVID A. POST - NATURAL SYSTEMS



David is a Research Scientist with CSIRO Land and Water at its Davies Lab in Townsville, Queensland. David completed his PhD at The Australian National University in 1996. From July 1996 to January 1999 he was a

post-doctoral research fellow at Oregon State University, carrying out research into the factors influencing hydrologic response for a range of sites within the United States long-term ecological research (LTER) network.

His research focuses on quantifying the relationships between landscape attributes (especially landuse), and hydrologic response (including water quality) in the tropics. Key skills are in the areas of the regionalisation of surface water hydrologic response, including determining the fluxes of water, sediment and nutrients for ungauged catchments. He is a Visiting Fellow at the Integrated Catchment Assessment and Management Centre at the Australian National University.

PROFESSOR COLIN MCKENZIE – SOCIOECONOMIC SYSTEMS



Colin McKenzie is currently a Professor in the Faculty of Economics at Keio University, one of Japan's top private universities. His current research interests relate to both empirical finance, in particular,

modelling of micro-aspects of external financing decisions by firms, and the use of event studies in finance; and econometric problems with two step estimation. He has previously held permanent appointments at Osaka University and the Australian National University. He has been living in Japan for the last sixteen years.

SUSAN CUDDY – GENERAL SYSTEMS



Susan Cuddy is a researcher and projects manager at the Integrated Catchment Assessment and Management (iCAM) Centre at The Australian National University, and a Senior Experimental Scientist at CSIRO Land and Water.

She has worked with multi-disciplinary research teams for over 20 years in developing underlying theory and practical applications of decision support systems for integrated catchment management. Her research interests are in knowledge representation, explanation and computer-user interactions.

REVISED WEB SITE

MSSANZ has updated its web site, accessible at: <http://mssanz.org.au>. The site includes a description of the Society, in particular its aims and affiliated societies, details on conferences, conference proceedings and the Newsletter, and a complete listing of Fellows, Medallists, Student Prize winners and Early Career Research Excellence Awards. There are also hyperlinks to a page advertising upcoming conferences, and another to the membership application, updating and fee payment form. At present, this has to be printed off and mailed to our Secretary, Susan Cuddy, but it has been designed so that it can be readily modified in the near future to handle on-line applications and subscription payments. Another future development will be on-line access to the Society's past Newsletters.

Web pages are continually being updated to provide information on the Society's next biennial conference (MODSIM 2005) to be held in Melbourne, 12-15 December, 2005 - <http://mssanz.org.au/modsim05/>

We encourage members to visit the Society's web site, and to feel free to email suggestions for its future development to the Secretary (susan.cuddy@csiro.au)

MSSANZ MEMBERSHIP

Membership fee for MSSANZ is AUD\$22 (including 10% GST) for two years. Members receive a AUD\$70 reduction in their registration fee at the next Biennial Conference and do not pay a membership fee for the next two years. the biennial conference in Canberra (MODSIM 2003).

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MODELLING AND SOFTWARE SOCIETY

iEMSSs 2006 3rd Biennial Meeting of the International Environmental Modelling and Software Society. Summit on Environmental Modelling and Software, July 9-12, 2006, Burlington, Vermont, USA.. Aims:

- To enhance sustainability outcomes and decision processes by establishing the state-of-the-art in Environmental Modelling and Software theory and practice for integrated assessment and management
- Identifying research needs for advancing the requisite knowledge base and tools
- Initiating and consolidating research partnerships for systematic studies that acquire, capture and generate knowledge platforms

Contact: Alexey Voinov: alexey.voinov@uvm.edu



See www.iemss.org for details.

**2005 BIENNIAL MEDALLISTS AND ECRE
AWARDS
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

Nominations are required by 30 June 2005 for the Biennial Medallists and Early Career Research Excellence Awards.

CATEGORIES

The Society has three categories, namely Natural Systems, Socioeconomic Systems, and General Systems. The Society is by its nature integrative, and the three categories reflect different emphases and perspectives regarding modelling and simulation.

The Society awards Fellowships, Biennial Medals, Early Career Research Excellence Prizes, Student Prizes for Best Paper and Presentation, and Student Commendations for Excellent Paper and Presentation, in each of the three categories. Fellows are awarded in every even-numbered year. Biennial Medals, Early Career Research Excellence Prizes, and Student Prizes and Commendations are awarded in every odd-numbered year to coincide with the Biennial Conferences. This year, they will be presented at the MODSIM 2005 Congress in Melbourne.

BIENNIAL MEDALS

Biennial medals recognise "exceptional research contributions to modelling and simulation, and for promoting the aims of the Society."

Any member of the Society may be nominated for a Biennial Medal. The proposer and seconder must be members of the Society and self-nomination is not permitted. The Awards Committee assesses the nominations and makes recommendations to the Management Committee for approval.

Medallists automatically become Fellows of the Society, and are entitled to use the postnominal "FMSSANZ".

EARLY CAREER RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

ECRE awards recognise "early career research excellence in modelling and simulation." An early career researcher should have graduated with a PhD degree or equivalent within seven years of being nominated for the award.

As for Biennial Medals, any member of the Society may be nominated. The proposer and seconder must be members of the Society and self-nomination is not permitted. The Awards Committee assesses the nominations and makes recommendations to the Management Committee for approval.

STUDENT PRIZES

Depending on the Congress convenor, students may need to register for consideration prior to the Congress. They are assessed on excellence of paper and presentation. The 2005 procedure will be available from the Congress website.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Written nominations should be sent directly to the Chair of the Awards Committee (President, Tony Jakeman) (see contact details at end of Newsletter), accompanied by a written statement and a curriculum vitae of the nominee. The deadline for nominations in 2005 is 30 June 2005.

PRESENTATION

The awards will be presented at the biennial conference in Melbourne (MODSIM 2005).

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NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

This newsletter has been produced by the MSSANZ office at iCAM, The Australian National University. Susan Cuddy and Susan Kelo have compiled the material provided by David Post, Andre Zerger, Robert Argent and Tony Jakeman. Where the Society did not have photos or biographies of award winners, these were sourced from the web.