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Preface

This special issue contains a collection of papers presented at the workshop CONCURRENCY, SPECIFICATION AND PROGRAMMING that took place in Berlin, 28-30 September 1998. The collection has been selected out of 35 original contributions accepted for presentation and is composed of 7 works pertained to Petri nets - their theory and application. Representatives of the remaining topics of the CS&P98 meeting are scheduled to appear in the regular issues of Fundamenta Informaticae. Preliminary versions of all the 35 papers appeared as a technical report issued by the Institute of Informatics of Humboldt University in Berlin. That maintained the tradition of the former CS&P workshops, whose participants, during the meetings, had been supplied with proceedings in the form of technical reports. Following the initiative of the Editor-in-Chief of Fundamenta Informaticae, some of the most highly evaluated contributions to CS&P are intended to appear in the editorially professional form of F.I. But it is not only appearance that distinguishes their new outlook from the fast-prepared technical reports: once again the contributions have been subjected to the referees procedure, turning the preliminary versions into better refined texts. Certainly, another indubitable advantage is the broad dissemination of Fundamenta. However, because of not very formal character of the CS&P workshops, we wish to retain the technical report form of the fórthcoming proceedings distributed among the participants at the time of the meetings. Then - following further editorial and evaluation treatment - to publish selected contributions in Fundamenta Informaticae.

The German-Polish seminar, enjoying a tradition of more than a quarter of a century, was initiated by the computer science groups affiliated to Berlins Humboldt University and Warsaw University. It takes place each year alternatingly in Germany and Poland and is supported by the two Universities on the basis of exchange programme signed every second year. After having been suspended for some years in the eighties (entailed by the known political events in our countries then), the meetings were reactivated in 1992 and given the name CONCURRENCY, SPECIFICATION AND PROGRAMMING (CS&P). The name reflected actual subject of interest of our groups which, by that time, developed into the Institutes of Informatics of Humboldt and Warsaw Universities. Since the reactivation we have decided to extend the research area, initially pertained to linguistic and logical problems in computer science, by semantics of concurrency, as well as by specification issues and, in general, programming. The scope of the subjects attracted researchers also from countries other than Germany and Poland, and this

turned the purely bilateral meetings into workshops collecting people from various countries. The successive meeting, CS&P99, will take place in Warsaw, 28-30 September 1999.

Why have Petri nets been granted this separate F.I. issue with a selection of papers presented at CS&P98? The formal answer is quite simple: 19 papers out of total 35 concerned Petri nets, their theoretical aspects (e.g. search for tractable ways of state space reduction, deadlock detection, net-definability of process languages, process semantics for general S/T nets), their extensions (e.g. Signal-Event nets, Chameleon nets), their applications (e.g. design and verification of a controller) and their tools (e.g. TINA, DAWN). But the prevailing number 19 reflects spread of net-like ideas and methods among people attending the CS&P for some time, as well as among the recent participants. Nevertheless, other topics, like multiagent systems, formal linguistics or design of efficient information flow in interconnection networks have been represented in the CS&P98. Their representatives will appear in the successive issues of Fundamenta Informaticae.

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