FOREWORD

Special Section on Formal Approach

Formal methods and techniques play a key role in the design and development of highly reliable information systems, including both hardware and software. The last decades have seen new techniques and profound theoretical results using formal methods in remarkably many fields such as modeling, requirements analysis, specification, code generation, testing, verification, maintenance, reuse, and security.

The Special Section on Formal Approach aims at stimulating research on all aspects of a formal approach, ranging from fundamental theory to case studies in practical systems. In response to the Call for Papers, ten papers were submitted, three of them from countries overseas. In addition, four papers were authored or coauthored by editorial committee members; these papers were reviewed and evaluated by excluding the (co)authors from the editorial committee. After a thorough and deliberate review process, the editorial committee selected seven papers of exceptional quality which prove the strength of formal approach research in the authors’ countries.

On behalf of the editorial committee of the Special Section, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all who submitted their valuable papers. I am also grateful to all the members of the editorial committee and to the external reviewers for their valuable and punctual help.

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