
FOREWORD

Special Section on Formal Approaches

Formal methods play a key role in designing and developing highly reliable information systems. Recently we have seen various new techniques and profound theoretical results related to formal methods in surprisingly many fields, such as modeling, requirements analysis, specification, code generation, testing, verification, maintenance, and reuse. They are rapidly extending their application domains as a result of recent advances in information and communication technologies.

The Special Section on Formal Approaches aims at stimulating research on formal approaches to information systems, ranging from fundamental theory to case studies on real-world systems. In response to the Call for Papers, a total of eight submissions were received. After a thorough and careful review process, the editorial committee selected four papers of exceptional quality that prove the significance and importance of formal approach research.

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 the external reviewers and the editorial committee members, especially the guest editors of this special section, Prof. Toshiaki Aoki and Prof. Hiroyuki Nakagawa, for their devoted efforts towards the success of the special section and the progress of formal approaches.

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Tatsuhiko Tsuchiya (*Member*) received his M.E. and Ph.D. degrees from Osaka University in 1995 and 1998, respectively. He is a professor of the Department of Information Systems Engineering, Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, Osaka University.

