Editorial

The purpose of this editorial is to give advance notice of the new Short Communications section in *Formal Aspects of Computing*.

The journal aims to foster and communicate new ideas and experiential knowledge in formal aspects of computing. This is done through the publication of papers which are reviewed and accepted, or not, following a thorough process. The present issue contains three papers which fall firmly within the topic area of this journal. Michael Hedberg's paper describes an experiment with Martin-Löf's Type Theory. The paper by Vangalur Alagar and Geetha Ramanathan explores the formalising of time-dependent behaviour, a topic which has rather evaded formal analysis to date. The paper by Huajun Qin and Philip Lewis extends the work of Shields on factorisation of state machines under various equivalences.

Many different forms of publication can promote the communication of issues in formal aspects of computing. It would not be appropriate to include all of them in this journal, however. Conference proceedings, details of new products and user manuals, for example, would not fit the style. However, the editorial board has thought for some time that the journal has room for a medium of communication other than the current usual style of papers. The Short Communications section will cater for the rapid reporting of brief ideas to evoke responses amongst other computer scientists. The section can also act as a medium for technical questions and debate, provided that the discussion stays firmly within a scientific ambit. We do not intend the section to meander into policy or economic questions (will X be popular in 2010? Is there a market for Y?). We shall, however, welcome brief reports of more practical applications of formal techniques, especially from industrial contributors. Such reports should contain some conclusions which can be generalised more widely; or should in other ways be of interest to the formal methods community.

So, please send contributions! These will be refereed, but the process will be brief, and we aim to achieve rapid publication. We hope to be able to publish the first contributions in volume 4 early in 1992.

Tim Denvir