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PREFACE

Category theory arose in the 1940s as an attempt to give a unified treatment to constructs which appear in various guises in algebra, set theory and topology. More recently, logical aspects of category theory have come to the fore. Also in the 1940s were the first attempts at programming electronic computers using sequences of machine instructions. Despite the apparent distance between these two subjects, category theory has become of increasing importance in understanding the process of computer programming.

This volume is a collection of research papers describing some of the links being established between category theory and computer programming. It is the proceedings of a conference held at the University of Edinburgh, 7th-9th September 1987. This conference was arranged as a sequel to that held at the University of Surrey in 1985, whose proceedings are published as number 240 in this series. For those interested in this topic, mention should also be made of the American Mathematical Society conference on Categories in Computer Science and Logic, held in Boulder, Colorado in June 1987.

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