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# Semantics: Foundations and Applications

REX Workshop Beekbergen, The Netherlands, June 1-4, 1992 Proceedings

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### Preface

The aim of the workshop on 'Semantics - Foundations and Applications' was to bring together researchers working on the semantics of programming languages. Faithfully reflecting the rich variety in present-day semantic research, the program of the workshop included presentations on a wide range of topics situated in the two areas:

#### Foundations

• comparative domain theory, category theory, information systems,

#### Applications

- concurrency process algebras, asynchronous communication, trace nets, action semantics, process refinement, concurrent constraint programming,
- predicate transformers, refinement, weakest preconditions,
- comparative semantics of programming concepts, full abstraction,
- reasoning about programs total correctness, epistemic logic,
- logic programming,
- functional programming sequentiality, integration with concurrency,
- applied structured operational semantics,

and several others.

The present volume is based on this meeting which the editors organized June 1-4, 1992, in Conference Centre De Wipselberg, Beekbergen, The Netherlands. The workshop was an activity of the project REX - Research and Education in Concurrent Systems, one of the projects sponsored by the Netherlands NFI (Nationale Faciliteit Informatica) Programme. A short description of the REX project is given below.

The material presented in this volume was prepared by the lecturers (and their coauthors) after the meeting took place - in this way the papers also reflect the discussions that took place during the workshop. The editors moreover invited a few authors to contribute papers not based on work presented during the meeting. We were fortunate to enjoy the cooperation of such an excellent group of lecturers and further participants. We are grateful to all of them for contributing to the success of the event. Special thanks go to Jan Rutten for his help in preparing the scientific program of the workshop.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support for the workshop from the NFI programme.

The CWI, Amsterdam, was responsible for the technical organization of the meeting. The local organization was in the capable hands of Mieke Bruné and Frans Snijders.

#### The REX project

The REX - Research and Education in Concurrent Systems - project investigates syntactic, semantic and proof-theoretic aspects of concurrency. In addition, its objectives are the education of young researchers and, in general, the dissemination of scientific results relating to these themes. REX is a collaborative effort of Leiden University (G. Rozenberg), the CWI in Amsterdam (J.W. de Bakker), and the Eindhoven University of Technology (W.P. de Roever), representing the areas of syntax, semantics and proof theory, respectively. The project is supported by the Netherlands National Facility for Informatics (NFI); its duration is approximately six years starting in 1988. The educational activities of REX include regular "concurrency days", consisting of tutorial introductions, presentations of research results, and lecture series of visiting professors. The research activities of the REX project include, more specifically:

- a) Three subprojects devoted to the themes: syntax of concurrent systems; comparative semantics, metric transition systems and domain theory; and high-level specification and refinement of real-time distributed systems.
- b) Collaboration with visiting professors and post-doctoral researchers.
- c) Workshops and Schools. Aiming at a broad coverage of major themes in, or relating to, concurrency, REX has organized the following events:
- 1988 Linear Time, Branching Time and Partial Order in Logics and Models for Concurrency Proceedings published as Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science 354
- 1989 Stepwise Refinement of Distributed Systems Models, Formalisms, Correctness LNCS 430
- 1990 Foundations of Object-Oriented Languages LNCS 489
- 1991 Real-Time: Theory in Practice LNCS 600
- 1992 Semantics: Foundations and Applications These Proceedings.

The project closes in 1993 with the School/Symposium "A Decade of Concurrency - Reflections and Perspectives", where the accomplishments in the field of concurrency will be surveyed and a look into the future will be attempted as to (un)expected developments.

February 1993

J.W. de Bakker W.P. de Roever G. Rozenberg

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