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Formal Aspects of Computing

Editorial

Two outstanding computer scientists each reach their 70th birthdays this year: Dines Bjørner was born on the 4th of October 1937 in Denmark and Zhou Chaochen was born on the 1st of November in the same year in China. Both have generously given their time as editors of this journal over the 19 years of its existence.

DINES BJØRNER is known for his many contributions to the theory and practice of formal methods for software engineering. He is particularly associated with two formal methods, although his influence is far wider. He worked with Cliff Jones and others on the *Vienna Development Method* (VDM), initially at IBM in Vienna. Later, he was involved in producing the *Rigorous Approach to Industrial Software Engineering* (RAISE) formal method with tool support. His three-volume *magnum opus* on software engineering covers *Abstraction and Modelling*, *Specification of Systems and Languages*, and *Domains, Requirements, and Software Design*.

He is an emeritus professor at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) in Lyngby, near Copenhagen, having given 35 years of service to the university (September 1965–January 1969 and September 1976–March 2007).

He was the founding Director of the United Nations University International Institute for Software Technology (UNU-IIST) in Macau during the 1990s. He was a co-founder of VDM-Europe, which transformed to become Formal Methods Europe, an organisation that promotes the use of formal methods. Its 18-monthly symposia have become the leading academic events in formal methods. Dines Bjørner is a Knight of the Order of the Dannebrog and was awarded the John von Neumann Medal in Budapest in 1994. He received a Doctorate (*honoris causa*) from the Masaryk University in Brno in 2004. He is a Fellow of both the IEEE and the ACM.

ZHOU CHAOCHEN is known for his seminal contributions to the theory and practice of timed and hybrid systems. His distinguished academic career started as an undergraduate in Mathematics and Mechanics at Peking University (1954–1958) and as a postgraduate at the Institute for Computing Technology in the Chinese Academy of Sciences (1963–1967). He continued his career at Peking University and the Chinese Academy, until he made an extended visit to Oxford University Computing Laboratory (1989–1992) at the invitation of Prof. Sir Tony Hoare. Here Chaochen was the prime instigator of the *Duration Calculus*, an interval logic for real-time systems, developed as part of a European ESPRIT project on Provably Correct Systems. He made further extended visits during the periods 1990–92 and 1995–1996, as a visiting professor at the Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby. He was a Principal Research Fellow at UNU-IIST during the period 1992–1997, before becoming its Director, an appointment he held from 1997 to 2002. He is a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Third World Academy of Sciences.

Their colleagues and students have organised a series of events in Shanghai and Macau to mark this double birthday. The scientific content of these events is contained in three LNCS volumes:

- *Essays in Honour of Dines Bjørner and Zhou Chaochen on the Occasion of their 70th Birthdays*. Papers presented at a Symposium held in Macau on 24th and 25th September 2007. LNCS volume 4**70**0. Springer 2007.
- *Domain Modelling and the Duration Calculus International Training School*, Shangai, China, 17th–21st September 2007. Advanced Lectures. LNCS volume 4710. Springer 2007.
- *Proceedings of the International Colloquium on Theoretical Aspects of Computing*. Held in Macau during 26th–28th September 2007. LNCS volume 4711. Springer 2007.

We thank both Zhou Chaochen and Dines Bjørner for their years of generous, wise advice, to their many other colleagues, students, and friends. They have both been unfailingly inspiring, enthusiastic and encouraging.

Cliff Jones
Jim Woodcock
August 2007