Preface

This special issue emerged from presentations given at WADT'98—the 13th Workshop on Algebraic Development Techniques. Like its predecessors, WADT'98 focused on the algebraic approach to the specification and development of systems, an area that was born around the algebraic specification of abstract data types and encompasses today the formal design of integrated hardware and software systems, new specification frameworks, and a wide range of applications.

The programme of WADT'98 consisted of 43 presentations. The main topics addressed during the workshop were: algebraic and other approaches to system specification; algebraic combination of logics; algebraic structures and logics for concurrency; other algebraic structures and their logics; specification languages and their associated methods and tools; term rewriting and theorem proving. The papers included in this special issue are good representatives of the research that is currently going on around these topics.

All the papers underwent a two-stage refereeing process. A committee consisting of Bernd Krieg-Brückner, José Luiz Fiadeiro, Peter Mosses, Fernando Orejas, Francesco Parisi Presicce, Don Sannella, and Andrzej Tarlecki selected a number of papers based on the abstracts and the presentations at the workshop, and invited their authors to submit a written version of their talks for possible inclusion in a volume edited by Springer-Verlag. All the submissions underwent a careful refereeing process and 21 of these were selected and published in the Lecture Notes in Computer Sciences series (vol. 1589). The selection committee then invited a small subset of the authors to submit extended versions of their papers. This issue contains the final versions of the contributions that were accepted after a second refereeing process. I am very grateful to all the referees that that helped the selection committee in this second round of reviewing: Arnon Vernon, Tomasz Borzyszkowski, Maura Cerioli, Harmut Ehrig, Naarciso Marti Oliet, Alfio Martini, Wieslaw Pawlowski, Pino Rosolini, Vladimiro Sassone and Michal Walicki.

Finally, I would like to thank Maurice Nivat for the invitation to organise this special issue.

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November 15, 2000