The presentation of the programs is very good, with effective use being made of different fonts. I spotted a few typographical errors in the program, but given the level of typesetting complexity, these could be forgiven. A more serious problem occurs in the list of references: several citations appear in the text which are incorrectly labelled, and one reference article is completely garbled. The absence of an index is also a nuisance. These are minor quibbles, however, and the overall impression is one of a well-presented contribution to the literature.

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These books replace Inmos’ Occam Programming Manual and Geraint Jones’ Programming in Occam¹ respectively. They reflect the new features of occam 2, the version of the language now supported by Inmos.

The Inmos manual is completely new. Each feature of the language is explained in turn in a straightforward way and illustrated with small examples. Appendices are used to give the complete BNF syntax, to describe the action of standard library routines and to give a glossary of technical terms. The manual is much more readable than its predecessor but it is still a reference manual rather than a guide to the construction of good occam programs. As a reference it is indispensible to the serious user of the occam language.

Jones and Goldsmith retain the structure and much of the content of Jones’ previous book. The first part is expanded in three ways: to improve the introduction to occam, to reflect the new features of occam 2 and to introduce new examples such as buffering and farming. The major examples from the previous book are rewritten in occam 2 and complete code for all the examples is presented. In the opinion of the reviewer this is by far the best book for someone who wants to master the design of good occam programs.

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¹ Also reviewed by Peter Capon in Science of Computer Programming 10 (2) (1988) 217.