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Formal Methods –
Selected Historical References

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Abstract

This report contains citations to papers which are of historical interest in the area of formal approaches to software development.

Introduction

This technical report lists references located during research undertaken into the history of the field of research which has become known as 'formal methods'. This historical work has so far resulted in a paper of which a technical report version is available ('The Search for Tractable Ways of Reasoning about Programs', UMCS-92-4-4). The accumulated references are also being used as reference material in preparation – with Fred Schneider – for 'The Quest For Program Correctness: Selected Readings' and a paper on the history of 'programming language semantics' which is being written with Joe Stoy. Since a substantial number of references have been discovered it seems worthwhile to make the list available to others. The references are being collated and checked by AM; both AM and CBJ would be grateful for corrections. The current list[1] has been checked for accuracy as far is possible with the sources available. It should be noted that this is not a complete list of all Formal Methods references and the authors would therefore be grateful for both corrections and suggestions for further items.

It should also be noted that there is often more than one citation for the same text. This is particularly true where a technical report has later been published as a paper in a major journal. Pre-prints are not listed unless they are of special significance because – for example – they were influential before final publication. It seems reasonable to focus on papers more than ten years old.

The authors regret that they cannot undertake to provide copies of the cited material.

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[1] Compiling this list has resulted in the production of a second list of other material, particularly unpublished manuscripts. At the time of publication the authors are still trying to develop precise citations for them.

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