

## **PART I**

# **FORMAL SPECIFICATION META-LANGUAGE**

This part of the book discusses general aspects of the systematic development method known as the "Vienna Development Method" (VDM). such a systematic development method provides, at the minimum, a notation for writing specifications and a way of relating designs to specifications. In [Jones 81c] it is argued that emphasis must be put on the early stages of system development (that is specification and high level design). In order to correct errors made in these stages enormous amounts of work may have to be discarded. The meta-language to be used in writing specifications is the cornerstone of the method: chapters 2 and 3 are concerned with the meta-language of VDM. Chapter 1 provides some historical background to the work on formal definition. Those aspects of VDM concerned with relating designs to their specifications are covered in Parts II and III below. Some notation is used in examples prior to its definition: the Glossary of Notation (towards the end of the book) should be consulted for any unfamiliar symbols.

