PART III

VDM AND OTHER SYSTEMS

Part III includes some applications of VDM outside the area of programming languages. During the 1970's, there was a steady growth of interest in database work. Several large database systems were widely applied to commercial applications. Of deeper significance is the fact that these systems exhibited a range of different underlying "architectures" (relational, hierarchical, network). Clearly there was a need for some precise specifications. This challenge has been taken up by a number of groups (see chapter 12 for further references). Here chapters 12 and 13 discuss the definition and design of database systems. Chapters 10 and 11 provide useful examples which lead into applications to database architectures. Other applications of VDM include the specification of "generic office automation systems" by the Danish Datamatics Centre, and a number of IBM products.

The meta-language used in VDM is not closed. The earlier parts of this book have used a limited range of constructs in order to simplify reading. This part of the book uses some additional constructs and also shows a more "imperative" style of specification. The extra features of the meta-language are described in the Glossary.