FOREWORD

Special Section on Formal Approach

Formal methods and techniques play a key role in designing and developing highly reliable information systems and embedded systems. The last decades have seen various new techniques and profound theoretical results using formal methods in surprisingly many fields such as modeling, requirements analysis, specification, automatic generation of codes, test, verification, maintenance, and reuse. They are rapidly extending their application domains as a result of the recent growth of information and communication technologies.

The Special Section on Formal Approach aims at stimulating research on formal approach to information systems, embedded systems and security protocols, ranging from fundamental theory to case studies in practical systems. In response to the Call for Papers, thirteen papers were submitted. After a thorough and careful review process, the editorial committee selected seven papers of exceptional quality that prove the significance and importance of formal approach research.

On behalf of the editorial committee of the Special Section, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all who submitted their valuable papers. I am also grateful to the external reviewers and the editorial committee members, especially Guest Editors Dr. Tatsuhiro Tsuchiya and Dr. Hiroyuki Nakagawa for their careful and devoted efforts towards the success of the Special Section and the progress of formal approach.

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Masaki Nakamura, Guest Editor-in-Chief

Masaki Nakamura (*Member*)   received his PhD in information science from Graduate School of Information Science, Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST) in 2002. He was an assistant professor at JAIST from 2002 to 2008, and an assistant professor at Kanazawa University from 2008 to 2011. He is currently an associate professor at Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Toyama Prefectural University from 2011. His research interest includes formal methods, algebraic specifications, and term rewriting systems.