

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL  
RUTHERFORD APPLETON LABORATORY

COMPUTING DIVISION

DISTRIBUTED INTERACTIVE COMPUTING NOTE 850

ICL URC Meeting on Specification

13 Dec  
issued by  
R W Witty  
6th July 1983

---

Distribution: F R A Hopgood  
D A Duce  
W P Sharpe  
R W Witty  
Ext Links/ICL gen

#### INTRODUCTION

This meeting brought together the leading UK academics in specification (all SERC funded) with various members of ICL plus 2 special guests from the USA (Reynolds and Morris).

The ICL organiser had put absolutely no work into organising the meeting so that we all turned up without so much as an agenda.

All of the formal sessions therefore were a rambling, academic discussion about various obtuse points relating to various people's specification methods.

Those members of ICL who were up to speed on specification enjoyed an interesting day with Hcare, Jones etc. The rest probably went away thinking specification is impossible for at least 10 years! They learnt nothing because nothing had been prepared in advance. (B Sufrin was asked to step up to the viewgraph and specify an airline seat reservation system, including error handling, with zero notice!).

The informal contacts during lunch, coffee etc were more productive.

#### HOS

ICL have the HOS system for evaluation. RWW will try to liaise with Clive Blatchford to allow academics to evaluate it too.

SPECIFICATION WORKSHOP  
HEDSOR HOUSE, HEDSOR PARK, TAPLOW, NR MAIDENHEAD, BERKS  
FIRDAY, 1 JULY 1983

| NAME                  | ADDRESS  | AREAS OF INTEREST  |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| PROF A R HOARE<br>FRS | OXFORD UNIVERSITY<br>8-11 KEBLE ROAD<br>OXFORD<br>OX1 3QD  | Chairman   |
| PROF C B JONES        | DEPT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE<br>UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER<br>OXFORD ROAD<br>MANCHESTER<br>M13 9PL             | Chairman   |
| DR J R ABRIAL         | 47 RUE HALLE<br>PARIS<br>75014   |  |
| DR H BARRINGER        | DEPT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE<br>UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER<br>OXFORD ROAD<br>MANCHESTER<br>M13 9PL             | Specification of parallel/distributed<br>systems (hardware and software).<br>General specification techniques. |
| PROF R BURSTALL       | DEPT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE<br>UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH<br>THE KINGS BUILDINGS<br>MAYFIELD ROAD<br>EDINBURGH | Specification languages, algebraic<br>methods.   |

DL3ABO

|                 |  |   |
|-----------------|--|---|
| MR D COLEMAN    | DEPT OF COMPUTATION<br>UMIST PO BOX 88<br>MANCHESTER<br>M60 1QD  | Software tools for program verification.<br>Software prototyping.<br>Program verification and programming in<br>imperative languages.                       |
| DR I COTTAM     | DEPT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE<br>UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER<br>OXFORD ROAD<br>MANCHESTER<br>M13 9PL             | Modular specification of temporal<br>properties of concurrent programs, proof<br>rules for recessive network expansion and<br>network expansion in general. |
| DR J CUNNINGHAM | DEPT OF COMPUTING<br>IMPERIAL COLLEGE<br>180 QUEENS GATE<br>LONDON SW7                                   | Specification and verification.<br>Bridge between theoretical and practical.  |
| DR M HENNESSY   | DEPT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE<br>UNIVERSITY OF EDINEURGH<br>THE KINGS BUILDINGS<br>MAYFIELD ROAD<br>EDINBURGH | Specification of concurrent systems.<br>Protocol specification.   |
| DR R MILNER     | UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH<br>DEPT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE<br>THE KINGS BUILDINGS<br>MAYFIELD ROAD<br>EDINBURGH | Machine assisted verification. Modelling<br>of distributed systems.<br>Description versus specification.<br>Communication.                                  |

DL3ABO

MR R MITCHELL

HATFIELD POLYTECHNIC  
HATFIELD  
HANTS

Teaching aspects of specification.  
Suggest it would be useful for  
non-academics to have introductory  
discussion on different approaches to  
specifications/some contextual  
info/updated picture for those not  
working in this at present.

PROF L MORRIS

COMPUTER & INFORMATION SCIENCE  
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY  
313 LINK HALL  
SYRACUSE  
NEW YORK 13210  
USA

Specifications by informal mathematics.

PROF J REYNOLDS

COMPUTER & INFORMATION SCIENCE  
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY  
313 LINK HALL  
SYRACUSE  
NEW YORK 13210  
USA

Specification of programs, algol-like  
languages, proof of such programs, and  
semantics.

PROF W P DE ROEVER DEPT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER  
MANCHESTER  
M13 9PL

Modular specification of concurrence  
programs. Modular specification of  
temporal properties of programs.  
Specifying real time processes.  
Proof rules for processes. Proof rules  
for modular specification of concurrent  
programs.

DL3ABO

|                   |   |  |
|-------------------|---|--|
| MR C RUNCIMAN     | SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH<br>DEPT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE<br>UNIVERSITY OF YORK<br>HESLINGTON<br>YORK           Y01 5DD    | Interpretation of software tools/<br>re-writing systems/algebraic<br>specifications.<br>Relationship between specification and<br>logic programming. |
| DR S SCHUMAN      | OXFORD UNIVERSITY<br>8-11 KEBLE ROAD<br>OXFORD           OX1 3QD  | Concurrency and distributed systems.   |
| PROF W D SHEPHERD | UNIVERSITY STRATHCLYDE<br>COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT<br>LIVINGSTONE TOWER<br>RICHMOND STREET<br>GLASGOW           G1 1XW | Standard verifier. Program verification.<br>Protocol specification and verification.   |
| MR D SIMPSON      | DEPT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE<br>SHEFFIELD CITY POLYTECHNIC<br>POND STREET<br>SHEFFIELD  | BETRI NETS and teaching.<br>System design rather than program design.  |
| DR B SUFRIN       | OXFORD UNIVERSITY<br>8-11 KEBLE ROAD<br>OXFORD           OX1 3QD  | Applications of se theoretic methods to<br>sizeable examples.  |

DR D R WITTY

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH    Software engineering.  
COUNCIL  
RUTHERFORD APPLETON LABORATORY  
COMPUTING DIVISION  
ATLAS CENTRE  
CHILTON  
DIDCOT  
OXON            OX11 0QX

DL3ABO

SPECIFICATION WORKSHOP  
HEDSOR HOUSE, HEDSOR PARK, TAPLOW, NR MAIDENHEAD, BERKS  
FIRDAY, 1 JULY 1983

| NAME         | ADDRESS  | AREAS OF INTEREST   |
|--------------|--|---|
| C BLATCHFORD | ICL<br>LOVELACE ROAD<br>BRACKNELL<br>BERKS RG12 4SN<br><br>TEL. (0344) 24842                     | Advanced development tools for networked systems, emphasising the need for a dynamic resource directory of computer processing. |
| A BRIGHTWELL | ICL<br>WESTFIELDS<br>WEST AVENUE<br>KIDSGROVE<br>STOKE-ON-TRENT ST7 1TL<br><br>TEL. (0782) 29681 | Structure of specification techniques and applying specification techniques, including proofs.                                  |
| A P G BROWN  | ICL<br>LOVELACE ROAD<br>BRACKNELL<br>BERKS RG12 4SN<br><br>TEL. (0344) 24842                     | Protocol specification. Formal language specification. Software engineering.  |

DL3ABO

J C P BURLEIGH

ICL  
LOVELACE ROAD  
BRACKNELL  
BERKS RG12 4SN  
TEL. (0344) 24842

Software methodology.  
High resilient systems.

W B COUSINS

ICL  
REGENT HOUSE  
87 LONDON STREET  
READING  
BERKS RG1 4QA  
TEL. (0734) 583696

Generic architecture.

G FELTON

ICL  
LOVELACE ROAD  
BRACKNELL  
BERKS RG12 4SN  
TEL. (0344) 24842

C HAYNES

ICL  
RG12 4SN  
LOVELACE ROAD  
BRACKNELL  
BERKS RG12 4SN  
TEL. (0344) 24842

Distributed systems for 1986 onwards.

DL3ABO



N HOLT

ICL  
WENLOCK WAY  
WEST GORTON  
MANCHESTER M12 5DR  
  
TEL. 061-223 1301

Methodology for VLSI design.

A JOHNSON

ICL  
LOVELACE ROAD  
BRACKNELL  
BERKS RG12 4SN  
  
TEL. (0344) 24842

Applicability of formal specification methods within ASD. Tools to support formal specification. Introduction of formal specification into a SW development product - training etc. Cost-effectiveness. Review of current

J JONES

ICL  
WENLOCK WAY  
WEST GORTON  
MANCHESTER M12 5DR  
  
TEL. 061-223 1301

Application technique to advanced hardware design.

M KELLEY

ICL  
118-128 LONDON STREET  
READING  
BERKS RG1 4SU  
  
TEL. (0734) 583696

Design methodology, especially for application package production.

DL3ABO

D LAZARUS

ICL  
118-128 LONDON STREET  
READING  
BERKS RG1 4SU

TEL. (0734) 583696

Organiser

M MORRON

ICL  
LOVELACE ROAD  
BRACKNELL  
BERKS RG12 4SN

TEL. (0344) 24842

Chairing software technology.  
What training is required in ICL on  
formal specification techniques?  
Are pilot projects the best method of  
implementing formal specification  
techniques? If so, what areas/types is

DR V PASQUALI

ICL  
LOVELACE ROAD  
BRACKNELL  
BERKS RG12 4SN

TEL. (0344) 24842

Chairman of UTP.

R POOLE

ICL  
WESTFIELDS  
WEST AVENUE  
KIDSGROVE  
STOKE-ON-TRENT ST7 1TL

TEL. (0782) 29681

Application of formal specification  
techniques.

DL3ABO

G PRATTEN

ICL  
WESTFIELDS  
WEST AVENUE  
KIDSGROVE  
STOKE-ON-TRENT ST7 1TL

TEL. (0782) 29681

Interfacing novel architecture into distributed architecture. Middle management education . Technology and technology transfer. Prototyping versus specification languages.

R SNOWDON

ICL  
WESTFIELDS  
WEST AVENUE  
KIDSGROVE  
STOKE-ON-TRENT  
ST7 1TL

TEL. (0782) 29681

Software technology, specification in systems software. Applicability of specification technology in parallel systems. Relationship between specification language and fifth generation languages.

A SOMMERVILLE

ICL  
LOVELACE ROAD  
BRACKNELL  
BERKS RG12 4SN

TEL. (0344) 24842

Application architecture and protocol specification.

R STOKES

ICL  
LOVELACE ROAD  
BRACKNELL  
BERKS RG12 4SN

TEL. (0344) 24842

Methods of Oxford University Research Group i.e. 'Z' notation. What does it take to get formal methods established? - to use in SW production.

DL3ABO

K TURNER

ICL  
WESTFIELDS  
WEST AVENUE  
KIDSGROVE  
STOKE-ON-TRENT  
ST7 1TL  
  
TEL. (0782) 29681

Specification of communications services  
and protocols.  
Practicability of proof techniques for  
various specification languages.  
Concepts of time and fairness in  
specification languages.

DL3ABO