Preface

It is a great pleasure for me for to write this Preface for the thesis of Jacopo Mauro, for at least three reasons.

The first one is the occasion for this Preface. Publishing a Ph.D. thesis in the Atlantis Studies in Computing, after having received a prize from the Italian Chapter of EATCS, is certainly a relevant achievement. Our Ph.D. school in Bologna is proud of such a result, which encourages us to continue on this path toward excellence.

The second reason is related to the content and the results of Jacopo's thesis. This is not the canonical Ph.D. thesis which deals with a single problem in a specific field. In fact the thesis considered two quite different research topics, constraint programming and concurrency theory, trying to identify the synergies and the cross fertilization deriving from their interaction and addressing both theoretical problems and practical applications. This was a quite challenging objective, which required a relevant effort to master many different technical notions. Nevertheless, the results obtained by Jacopo were excellent, as witnessed by the external reviewers of the thesis who wrote:

> This excellent thesis involves several important scientific contributions to the fields of declarative programming and concurrent programming. . . . In conclusion, I consider this thesis an important and impressive work.

Finally, I am happy to write this Preface also for a personal reason. Having been the advisor of Jacopo has been a pleasure for me, because I have seen (and still see) a continuous improvement in his technical skills and in his ability of doing research. I am very well aware that the advisor has no merit in such a process, having him mainly in a maieutic role. Nevertheless, it is pleasant to think that even such an indirect role has somehow contributed to the growth of a person.

Bologna, December 2013 Maurizio Gabbrielli



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