Editorial

In the first article, *Towards Expanding Open Learning for Special Needs*, M. I. Yolles and M. Pirani discuss a number of demands existing in respect of higher education. One class of demands is related to efficient and effective provision to groups which do not normally have an easy acces to education, for example, disabled groups. Another demands relate to the European context, overcoming the problems of a heterogeneous European educational system. The use of computers in transcultural European open/distance learning courses and the use of concepts of open learning for special needs are in the focus of this paper.

The second paper also addresses the area of education. In the paper, *Storage and Network Requirements of a Low-Cost Computer-Based Virtual Classroom*, P. Juell, D. Brekke, R. Vetter and J. Wasson investigate the network and storage requirements of a virtual classroom. The virtual classroom has to replace tradicional class methodologies by using the computer as the sole instrument for all class activity. The virtual classroom is based on the following computing resources: SUN workstations, X tools, an Ethernet network and UNIX operating system support.

The role of formal methods in the context of an engineering paradigm and their integrating into development process are discussed in the H. Saiedian's paper *Information Systems and the Engineering Paradigm: Integrating the Formal Methods Into the Development Process*. One of the aims of the paper is to narrow the gap between the results of academia and pragmatic concerns of the information systems industry, emphasizing the importance of formal methods in the development of information systems and encouraging further progress in information system methodologies.

In the fourth paper, *Using Conceptual Graphs To Represent Database Inference Security Analysis*, authors H. S. Delugach and T. H. Hinke describe an approach to database inference analysis based on conceptual graphs. The inference model, called AERIE, is presented in the paper.

A new method of modeling 3D-objects for the interpretation of the range images is described in the paper *3D-Modeling for the Analysis of Range Data*, authors J. Duckeck and H. Kirchner. This paper is presented on *The Second German-Slovenian Workshop of 3-D Scene Acquisition, Modeling and Understanding*, Ljubljana, Slovenia, June 1994.

Modern networks introduce fast packed switches as a new concept of a switching node. The sixth paper, *Fast Packed Switches with Shared Buffer Memory*, by L. Gavrilovska, describes fast packet switches which employ shared buffer memory. A new approach to the performance analysis of the shared buffer switches, called the reduced variance approximation (RVA) is proposed in this paper.

M. Atanasijević–Kunc, R. Karba and F. Bremšak present some possible simplifications of nonlinear model of three coupled tanks in the paper *Multivariable Decoupling Compensator for a Tank Level Control.*

The above last two articles are extended versions of the papers which were presented on the ITI '94 Conference, Pula, Croatia, June 1994.

This issue is the last in the Vol. 2 and it contains, as usual, the author index, subject index and list of reviewers.

Editors