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Correspondence

Termination Indicators in Programming

Dear Sir.

K. Brokate's letter1 raises a point about the semantics of OBJ which Duce and Fielding² do not explain. The distinctness of the value denoted by the term empty_ndc_points is a consequence of OBJ having initial algebra semantics. Terms denote different values unless the equations say that they denote the same value. Since there are no equations in NDC_POINTS, no two distinct terms constructed with the operators *empty_ndc_points* and ... denote the same value, therefore NDC_Points cannot be a finite set.

It is the absence of any equations rather than the presence of anything that gives the properties that Duce and Fielding explain.

Yours faithfully R. T. O. REES 24 Hills Road. Cambridge CB2 1JP

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Announcements

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Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale, Lausanne, Switzerland, DT 89, International Conference on Digital Typography and Raster Imaging

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