Algebraic Methods in Semantics

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This book, which contains contributions from leading researchers in France, USA and Great Britain, gives detailed accounts of a variety of methods for describing the semantics of programming languages, i.e. for attaching to programs mathematical objects that encompass their meaning. Consideration is given to both denotational semantics, where the meaning of a program is regarded as a function from inputs to outputs, and operational semantics, where the meaning includes the sequence of states or terms generated internally during the computation. The major problems considered include equivalence relations between operational and denotational semantics, rules for obtaining optimal computations (especially for nondeterministic programs), equivalence of programs, meaning-preserving transformations of programs and program proving by assertions. Such problems are discussed for a variety of programming languages and formalisms, and a wealth of mathematical tools is described.

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