------------------------ Messaggio originale -------------------------
Oggetto: Re: Query
Da: "Vania Joloboff" <V.Joloboff@ri.silicomp.com>
Data: Mer, 8 Settembre 1999 11:27 am
A: "Dino Buzzetti" <buzzetti@philo.unibo.it>

Dino Buzzetti wrote:

>>
>> Dear Dr Joloboff,
>>
>> In one of your papers I have found a brief mention to a
>> distinction between 'formalism' and 'format'. I have not
>> been able, though, to find any precise reference to it anywhere
>> else.
>>
>> If you can help me, could you be so kind as to let me
>> know?
>>
>> With best regards,   -dino buzzetti
>>

Sorry to reply late.

IMHO,

a formalism is a tool that allows to formally demonstrate a proof
or compute some result. Examples of formalisms are
lambda calculus, logic, etc.

a format is purely a coding mechanism to store (or exchange)
data so that the reading (or the receiving) party can
recover the semantics from the data.
Examples of formats are the .gif format to code images on Internet
and the .doc format from Microsoft Word.

You can't proof or compute anything with a format.
You can only represent data.

Vania Joloboff

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