

## The Science of Computing

When I joined the Mathematical Reasoning Group as a research fellow, in what was then the Department of Artificial Intelligence, I thought of myself as a computer scientist. I soon realised that probably the majority of the other people in the group did not think of themselves in that way. Despite that, I saw more “science” in the work of the MRG than I had seen previously, working solely with computer scientists.

The discipline of “computer science” or “computing science” is broad, ranging from pure mathematics to electronic engineering, and overlapping with many other subjects. However, there is arguably little in the subject that a chemist, physicist, or biologist would recognise as science. I think they *would* find something familiar in the work of the MRG, from the compelling explanation of proof by induction, to the experimental methods deployed in human-computer interaction projects. This may come as no surprise to other former and current members of the MRG, but it was unexpected to me.

I value highly my time as a member of the MRG, not least for what I learnt from Alan Bundy about leading, inspiring, and encouraging a team, but also for helping me to see more of the science in computing.

*Richard Boulton*