

Minutes of the RTA/RDP 2007 Business Meeting

June 26-28 (RTA), June 25-29 (RDP), 2007, Paris, France

recorded by Bernhard Gramlich

RTA 2007 SC Chair: Jürgen Giesl
RTA 2007 PC Chair: Franz Baader
RTA 2007 Conf. Co-Chairs: Antonio Bucciarelli, Vincent Padovani,
Ralf Treinen, Xavier Urbain

The combined business meeting of RDP 2007 / RTA 2007 was held on June 27, 2007, 17:45–18:15 (RDP) and 18:15–19:15 (RTA), with some overlap due to voting.

1 RDP 2009 Location & Conference Chair: Proposals

The RTA-SC Chair Jürgen Giesl chairs the Business Meeting of RDP 2007 and of RTA 2007. The first issues are the presentation of proposals for RDP 2009 and subsequent votes on these proposals (i.e., on location and conference chair). He reports that, according to a previous agreement between the Steering Committees of RTA and TLCA, a call for hosting and organizing RDP 2009 (with main conferences RTA 2009 and TLCA 2009 as well as satellite events) had been distributed some time ago. Previous editions of RDP took place in Valencia/Spain (RDP 2003), Nara/Japan (RDP 2005) and Paris/France (RDP 2007). For 2009, three proposals have been received (in alphabetical order according to the city):

- Brasilia (Brazil):
The proposal is presented by Mauricio Ayala-Rincon (Brasilia University). Conference Co-Chairs would be Mauricio Ayala Rincon (RTA) and Hermann Haeusler (TLCA). The conference would take place at the *Universidade de Brasília*.
- Leipzig (Germany):
The proposal is presented by Johannes Waldmann (HWTK Leipzig). Conference Co-Chairs would be Alfons Geser and Johannes Waldmann. The conference would take place at the *University of Applied Sciences in Leipzig*.
- Novi Sad (Serbia):
The proposal is presented by Silvia Ghilezan (University of Novi Sad) who would be Conference Chair. The conference would take place at the Campus of the *University of Novi Sad*.

In all three presentations of the proposals, the authors provide concise information about relevant issues like the host city, geographic location, accessibility and climate, local scientific context, conference facilities and planned events, possible dates, estimated costs for participants, social events, local attractions, pictures and special reasons why to choose this location.

2 RDP 2009 Location & Conference Chair: Voting

The vote on the RDP 2009 Location & Conference Chair is conducted by secret ballot (with at most one vote per participant) and gives the following result:

Proposal	Number of votes
Brasilia (Brazil)	31
Leipzig (Germany)	15
Novi Sad (Serbia)	16
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Consequently, RDP 2009 will take in Brasilia (Brazil), organized by Mauricio Ayala-Rincon and Hermann Haeusler. Jürgen Giesl congratulates the winner, and thanks the authors of the other proposals for their offer. This concludes the first part of the RDP 2007 Business Meeting.

3 Report by the Program Committee Chair of RTA 2007 (Franz Baader)

The call for papers was issued in October 2006, a second one in December 2006 and a final one in January 2007. The submission process had two stages, first only titles and abstracts and five days later full papers. In total, 69 submissions were received out of which 27 papers (24 regular papers and 3 system descriptions) were finally accepted. The weighted submission/acceptance statistics according to author affiliations is as follows:

authors from	submitted	accepted
France	20+1/12	12+2/3
Japan	6+1/3	2
Spain	6+1/3	2+5/6
USA	6+1/6	3+1/6
China	5	0
The Netherlands	5	2
Portugal	3+5/12	1
UK	3+1/3	0
Germany	3	1+1/2
Austria	2+1/3	2+1/3
Australia	2	0
Algeria	1	0
Brazil	1	0
Canada	1	0
Korea	1	0
Poland	1	0
Romania	1	0
Italy	5/6	1/2
Argentina	1/3	0

Submission and collection of referee reports as well as the electronic PC meeting were handled using Andrei Voronkov's *EasyChair* system. The program committee consisted of 14 members. Its composition reflects the RTA tradition of having a mixture of both established researchers in rewriting and fresh members in the program committee.

Each submission was reviewed by at least three expert reviewers. Besides the program committee members, there were 131 external reviewers involved.

RTA 2007 featured 3 invited talks, one of them shared with TLCA 2007:

- *Xavier Leroy: Formal Verification of an Optimizing Compiler*
- *Robert Nieuwenhuis: Challenges in Satisfiability Modulo Theories*
- *Frank Pfenning: On a Logical Foundation for Explicit Substitutions* (joint with TLCA)

The RTA 2007 program committee decided to award a prize of 1,000€ for the best paper to the article *On Linear Combinations of λ -Terms* by Lionel Vaux.

From the RDP 2007 budget, the participation of 10 students (one of which was an RTA-author) in the conference was supported by student travel grants.

Finally the PC Chair reports on the fact (obviously overlooked so far) that the proceedings titles of RTA had been changed from *Rewriting Techniques and Applications* into *Term Rewriting and Applications* since 2005, including this year. For the future it should be ensured that the proceedings title of RTA will again be the correct one, namely *Rewriting Techniques and Applications*.

4 Report by the Conference Co-Chairs of RDP 2007 (presented by Antonio Bucciarelli)

The report of the RDP 2007 Conference Co-Chairs Antonio Bucciarelli, Vincent Padovani, Ralf Treinen and Xavier Urbain is presented by Antonio Bucciarelli. RDP 2007, Monday, June 25, 2007 to Friday, June 29, 2007, Paris, France, comprises the following scientific events:

- Conferences: RTA, TLCA (Tuesday – Thursday)
- Workshops: HOR, PATE, WFLP, WRS (Monday)
- Workshops: RULE, SecReT, UNIF, WST (Friday)
- Colloquium in Honour of Giuseppe Longo: From Type Theory to Morphologic Complexity (Thursday afternoon – Friday)

The social events include a Reception at the CNAM on Tuesday evening with an evening talk by Henk Barendregt on *The Diamond Anniversary of Lambda Calculus*, and a Banquet on Wednesday evening (dinner cruise on the river Seine).

Next some figures about participants of RDP 2007 are given. In total there are 287 participants, with no registration to overlapping events.

Participants by event:

Main Conference Tuesday - Thursday	Participants
RTA	114
TLCA	91

Monday Event	Participants	Friday Event	Participants
HOR	38	RULE	19
PATE	22	SecReT	20
WFLP	24	UNIF	14
WRS	32	WST	49
		Longo	83

Participants by country:

France	124
UK	24
Italy	23
Spain, USA	19
Germany, Japan, Netherlands	14
Austria	6
Canada, Poland, Portugal	[4,5]
Belgium, Sweden	[2,3]
Brazil, Estonia, Israel, Norway, P.R. China Romania, Serbia, South Korea, Taiwan	1

The budget details are still preliminary and need some more time to be finalized.

Budget: Income

Expected income from registration fees:	60.000 €
Expected income from sponsors:	18.000 €
<hr/> Total expected income:	<hr/> 78.000 €

Budget: Expenses

Rooms	15.000 €
Food	40.000 €
Invited Speakers	6.000 €
Student Travel Grants	4.000 €
Communication	3.000 €
Proceedings	6.000 €
Best paper award	1.000 €
<hr/> Total (estimated)	<hr/> 75.000 €

Finally, it is reported that RDP 2007 provided some support for students in the form of Student Travel Grants. A call for applications was sent out on May 4, 2007. The Grants Committee, consisting of Franz Baader, Antonio Bucciarelli, Mariangiola Dezani-Ciancaglini and Ralf Treinen received 10 applications (only 1 from outside Europe) and decided to waive RDP registration fees for 8 applicants (cost: ~2000 €) and to give travel grants to 5 applicants (cost: 2100 €).

Last but not least the organizers express their gratitude to the institutional sponsors of RDP 2007, cf. <http://www.lsv.ens-cachan.fr/rdp07/> for details.

5 Report on the 3rd International School on Rewriting – ISR 2008 (Aart Middeldorp)

After the first two editions of the *International School on Rewriting*, ISR 2006 and ISR 2007, both held in Nancy, the 3rd edition – ISR 2008 – is planned to take place in Obergurgl, Austria, July 21-25, 2008, hosted by the University of Innsbruck, just after RTA 2008 in Linz. Aart Middeldorp presents an overview of the highlights of the location and of the planning so far.

- University Centre Obergurgl: Everything is under one roof, full board is offered, wireless internet access is available, and for participants it's reasonably priced.
- Accessibility: 2 hours from Innsbruck (by train and bus); 5 hours from Linz (via Innsbruck).
- Structure of the school:
 - An introductory term rewriting course (22.5 hours including exercises)
 - An intermediate course on (applications / implementations of rewriting in) automated reasoning (4.5 hours)
 - Advanced courses (27 hours in total).
- Tracks: There will be two tracks in the school, one for students with no prior exposure to term rewriting, and another more advanced one for participants with basic knowledge of term rewriting.

6 Proposal of New RTA Steering Committee Members

The current composition of the RTA Steering Committee (SC) is as follows:

Jürgen Giesl	Aachen (Germany)	since 2004
Delia Kesner	Paris (France)	since 2004
Vincent van Oostrom	Utrecht (The Netherlands)	since 2004
Ashish Tiwari	Menlo Park (USA)	since 2005
Maribel Fernández	London (UK)	since 2006
Bernhard Gramlich	Vienna (Austria)	since 2006

According to the bylaws of RTA, 3 new SC-members have to be elected by the RTA General Assembly, to replace those members whose term of office has expired, i.e. Jürgen Giesl, Delia Kesner and Vincent van Oostrom. After a call for nominations of candidates for new SC-members issued on the rewriting mailing list in time before the conference, the following 6 proposals had been received (in alphabetical order):

Franz Baader	Dresden (Germany)
Paul-André Melliès	Paris (France)
Hitoshi Ohsaki	Osaka (Japan)
Frank Pfenning	Pittsburgh (USA)
Grigore Roşu	Urbana (USA)
Albert Rubio	Barcelona (Spain)

All candidates have agreed to be nominated prior to the Business Meeting and have provided concise candidate statements which are distributed to the participants of the RTA General Assembly. Every participant has 3 votes.

7 Proposal for the RTA 2009 Program Committee Chair

The RTA-SC has nominated Ralf Treinen (ENS Cachan, France) to become RTA 2009 Program Committee Chair. The RTA-SC Chair briefly explains and motivates this choice by the SC.

8 Voting on Proposals

The votes on new SC-members and the RTA 2009 Program Committee Chair are conducted by secret ballot. The results are as follows.

- New RTA-SC members:

name	location	votes
Franz Baader	Dresden (Germany)	33
Paul-André Melliès	Paris (France)	20
Hitoshi Ohsaki	Osaka (Japan)	25
Frank Pfenning	Pittsburgh (USA)	24
Grigore Roşu	Urbana (USA)	7
Albert Rubio	Barcelona (Spain)	29

- RTA 2009 PC Chair (Ralf Treinen)

result	votes
Yes	46
No	1
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Consequently, Franz Baader, Albert Rubio and Hitoshi Ohsaki are the new elected RTA-SC members, and Ralf Treinen is appointed RTA 2009 PC Chair.

9 Report of the RTA 2008 Conference Chair and the RTA 2008 Program Committee Chair (Andrei Voronkov)

The report about RTA 2008 is presented by the RTA 2008 PC Chair Andrei Voronkov.

- General information:

RTA 2008 will be part of the RISC 2008 summer. A web page including the local information already exists (cf. <http://www.risc.uni-linz.ac.at/about/conferences/rta2008/>). The PC will be composed depending on the outcome of the RTA Business Meeting (regarding a change in the bylaws). Three invited speakers will be fully supported by RISC. The proceedings title will again be *Rewriting Techniques and Applications*.

- Tentative dates:

– July 14: pre-RTA workshops

- July 15-17: RTA
 - July 18: post-RTA workshops
 - July 19-20: IFIP-WG 1.6 in Obergurgl
 - July 21-25: ISR 2008, post-RTA workshops in Obergurgl
 - July 7-18: RISC/SCIence Training School in Hagenberg
 - July 20-23: ISSAC 2008 in Hagenberg
- Registration fees (250–280 €) include transportation between Linz and Hagenberg at fixed times, the conference package, coffee breaks, lunches, the conference dinner and the proceedings.
 - Workshop fees are 70 € per day.
 - Accomodation: The hotel “Summerhouse” in Hagenberg offers *** quality rooms. There are 130 rooms available, with internet access. The conference site is reachable in a 2-minute walk from the hotel. Rates for rooms are 30 € / 50 € for a single / double room with breakfast.
 - Linz: *** and **** hotels are in the range of 70-100 € per night. Further details about transportation from and to Hagenberg as well as about Linz are given and will be available later on the web page of RTA 2008.
 - Support of RISC: The organization of RTA 2008 will be formally supported by RISC. This includes in particular the payment of 15 registration fees for participants of the RISC/SCIence Training School.

10 Discussion

The RTA-SC Chair reports that there is one proposal to modify Item 11 of the RTA Bylaws which states:

11. Members of the PC should not submit regular papers (except system demos and problems set).

He summarizes arguments for keeping and for dropping this restriction, and opens the discussion about this issue. There are a few opinions in favour of weakening this item (by Andrei Voronkov and Frank Pfenning). However, it is also made clear in the discussion that completely dropping Item 11 would be too liberal, since at least the PC Chair should be excluded from submitting papers. Finally, the RTA-SC Chair asks in a non-secret vote who is in favour of replacing the text of Item 11 by

The PC Chair should not submit any paper.

The result of this vote is: 22 Yes, 15 No, and an unclear number of abstentions, hence a relative majority. Thus the motion is adopted.

Following this discussion and vote there are some concerns raised from the General Assembly about what kind of majority is needed to adopt such a change in the bylaws (Roberto di Cosmo) and about the preparation of such motions for being appropriately treated in the Business Meeting. In particular, it is suggested to make information about such proposals earlier available to the community (Johannes Waldmann) and to base such changes and decisions for RTA (in the future) on a less random basis and perhaps on a remote procedure as it is for instance done by CADE, via AAR (Frank Pfenning).