The RTA list of open problems

Hans Zantema

Technische Universiteit Eindhoven and Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen

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The RTA list of open problems was created in 1991 by Nachum Dershowitz, Jean-Pierre Jouannaud and Jan Willem Klop on occasion of the RTA91 conference.

Current maintainers are Nachum Dershowitz and Ralf Treinen.

Goal:
- A way of archiving our area of research, complementary to standard bibliography in which the emphasis is on what has been solved.
- Inspiration for new research.

Currently, the list comprises 107 problems, 36 of which are solved.
The RTA list of open problems was created in 1991 by Nachum Dershowitz, Jean-Pierre Jouannaud and Jan Willem Klop on occasion of the RTA91 conference

Updated lists have since been published at RTA93, RTA95 and RTA98

Since October 1997 the list of open problems is maintained as a web service, led by Nachum Dershowitz and Ralf Treinen

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Some observations

The first 50 problems out of 107 are all from 1991

Hardly new problems: number 100 is from 2002, the last one from 2010

Many problems are not precisely formulated open problems, but more general research questions

Many decidability / complexity issues

Many problems are well documented, with good explanation, many references, summary of developments

Hardly new developments, while dozens of rewriting papers published every year probably contain several potential new open problems

Ralf Treinen steps back due to shift in research interest
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Proposal

IFIP WG 1.6 becomes responsible for maintenance of open problem list, renamed to List of Open Problems in Rewriting.

HZ takes over the moderator role of Ralf Treinen.

RTA already has ‘problem list’ explicitly mentioned as type of submission: in case of new developments a paper about these developments can be submitted to RTA.

A revival and increasing activity in this list would be fruitful for our research area.

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