GENERAL ELECTRIC

CORPORATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
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August 17, 1983

Dear Colleagues:

The enclosed information is to bring you up to date on the arrangements for the GE/NSF Rewrite Rule Laboratory Workshop, to be held Tuesday, September 6, through Friday, September 9 at the GE Research and Development Center and the Institute on Man and Science. The agenda enclosed should be regarded as flexible; please feel free to suggest changes by mail or at the workshop. In particular if you would like to make a presentation of recent technical results on term rewriting systems, let us know early in the meeting so that a time slot can be scheduled.

We will start the meeting at 9 am on September 6, so it would be best for out of town participants to arrive on Monday, September 5. Air travellers will arrive at the Albany airport. There is also good train service from New York City (Grand Central Station) to Schenectady. For participants other than from GE and RPI, we have reserved a block of rooms at the Ramada Inn, Schenectady (telephone 518-370-7151) for Monday night. At the bottom of this letter is an indication of whether we have reserved a room for you. If this is right, you need do nothing, but if not, please let me know by September 2. The Ramada runs a free limosine to both the Albany airport and the Schenectady train station.

On Tuesday, the first sessions of the workshop will be held at the GE Research and Development Center, River Road, Schenectady. Transportation from the Ramada Inn to the Center will be provided at about 8:30 Tuesday morning. If you arrive in Schenectady on Tuesday morning, please take a cab to the Center or refer to the enclosed map if you rent a car. In the late afternoon, participants will be driven to the Institute on Man and Science in Rensselaerville, NY, which is approximately 25 miles southwest of Schenectady. A brochure describing the Institute is enclosed. The rest of the meeting will be held at the Institute and all meals from dinner Tuesday evening through lunch Friday will be provided at the Weathervane Restaurant at the Institute. Late Friday afternoon transportation from the Institute back to the airport, train station or hotels will be provided.

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR REWRITE RULE WORKSHOP

Tuesday, Sept. 6, 1983

Morning Session:

- status summary on the design of Rewrite Rule Lab, REVE, and L language

- functionality of REVE
  talk, demonstration and discussion of user interface
  the power and limitations of REVE
  (primarily for those who may not be familiar with REVE)

Afternoon Session:

- Discussion of other term rewriting systems:

  FORMEL - Fages, Lescanne or Jouannaud
  OBJ - Plaisted
  AFFIRM - Musser
  RRL(SEKI) - Raulefs

Rest of the session, people will be encouraged to familiarize themselves with REVE (a number of terminals will be available to participants for accessing REVE, both at GE and via phone lines at the Institute)

Evenings will be left for informal discussions. If the need arises, we can schedule some sessions then; in particular, we could have some presentations of recent technical results relating to term rewriting systems during the evenings as the time allotted for that on Thursday may not be sufficient.

Another topic for evening discussions is planning for an international conference on term rewriting systems to be held in the summer or fall of 1984

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 1983

Morning Session:

- open discussion on experiences with RRL (REVE)

  Current use of REVE and future plans
  Enhancements underway

- internal structure and design of REVE
  Rewrite Rule Architecture
  abstractions
  user interface

Afternoon Session:

- open discussion on user interface and whether REVE provides the right kind of abstractions at appropriate level

  what should be changed
  what needs to be added

- presentation and discussion on the L language

People are encouraged to use REVE

Thursday, Sept. 8, 1983

Morning Session:

Technical Presentations on Term Rewriting Systems

(recent results)

Afternoon Session:

Excursion to Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown

Friday, Sept. 9, 1983

Morning Session:

- Suggestions for Enhancements including
  relation to other theorem proving methods.

  For every proposed enhancement:

  what it is - technical discussion
  (some of this will perhaps be covered on Thursday morning)
  why it is important, practical significance
  how much effort is involved - (long term or short term)
  suggestion about who might do it

  user interface enhancements

- measurements and test suites

Afternoon Session:

- Coordination of Future Work

portability
distribution
standards, version control, documentation
enumerate what should be done in the next year, milestones
who should do it

Conclusion

Future Meetings
final decisions on plans for an international
conference on term rewriting systems