Minutes of the RTA 2003 Business Meeting

June 9 – 11, 2003, Valencia, Spain

recorded by Jürgen Giesl

RTA 2003 Steering Chair:	Aart Middeldorp
RTA 2003 Program Chair:	Robert Nieuwenhuis
RTA 2003 Conference Chair:	Salvador Lucas

1 Report by the Program Chair of RTA 2003 (*Robert Nieuwenhuis*)

- RTA had deadlines similar to CADE (January 15, 2003) with a review period of two months. (Notification was on March 15, 2003).
- There was no deadline extension.
- The number of submissions to RTA was satisfactory. There were 61 papers submitted (57 regular submissions and 4 system descriptions).
- The authors of submissions and accepted papers come from the following countries:

Country	Submissions	Accepted Papers
France	19.6 %	11.3 %
USA	9 %	6.5 %
UK	4.5 %	3.5 %
Japan	6 %	3 %
Germany	4 %	2.5 %
The Netherlands	5.2 %	2.2 %
Spain	4 %	1.5 %
Austria	1 %	1 %
Israel	2.5 %	0.5 %
Portugal	1 %	0 %
Algeria	1 %	0 %
Denmark	1 %	0 %
Canada	1 %	0 %
Brazil	0.6 %	0 %
Poland	0.5 %	0 %

- Each submitted paper was reviewed by at least four referees.

- To handle the reviewing process and the electronic PC-meeting, the "*PC-Expert*" system of Andrei Voronkov was used.
- There were 32 papers accepted (26 regular papers and 6 system descriptions). Here, three papers which were submitted as regular papers were accepted as system descriptions.
- The scope of the papers was very broad, ranging from high-level theory to system descriptions and applications of rewriting.
- System descriptions were regarded as "first-class citizens". Therefore, there was no special session on systems, but instead, many sessions contained both regular talks and talks on system descriptions.
- That system descriptions are as important as regular papers is also demonstrated by the fact that the best paper award of 1000 Euro was split into two parts: 500 Euro were given to the best system description ("Tsukuba Termination Tool" by Nao Hirokawa and Aart Middeldorp) and 500 Euro were given to the best regular papers. Here, the award was split again and each 250 Euro were awarded to the paper "On the Complexity of Higher-Order Matching in the Linear Lambda-Calculus" by Sylvain Salvati and Philippe de Groote and to the paper "XML Schema, Tree Logic and Sheaves Automata" by Silvano Dal Zilio and Denis Lugiez.
- RTA 2003 took place as part of the *Federated Conference on Rewriting, Deduction, and Programming (RDP 2003).* This event consisted of two main conferences (RTA and the International Conference on Typed Lambda Calculi and Applications (TLCA)) and several collocated workshops:
  - International Workshop on First-Order Theorem Proving (FTP)
  - Annual Meeting of the IFIP Working Group 1.6 on Term Rewriting
  - International Workshop on Rule-Based Programming (RULE)
  - International Workshop on Unification (UNIF)
  - International Workshop on Functional and (Constraint) Logic Programming (WFLP)
  - International Workshop on Reduction Strategies in Rewriting and Programming (WRS)
  - International Workshop on Termination (WST)
- RTA 2003 had three invited speakers: David McAllester (joint invited speaker with TLCA), Pat Lincoln, and Jean-Louis Giavitto.

2 Report by the Conference Chair of RTA 2003 (*Salvador Lucas*)

- The numbers of participants of RTA 2003 is 104 (79 regular participants and 25 student registrations). 17 persons registered for all events of RDP 2003.
- The participants of RTA 2003 come from 12 countries:

Country	Number of Participants
France	35
Spain	19
Japan	13
USA	9
Germany	6
UK	6
The Netherlands	6
Austria	4
Italy	2
Israel	2
Norway	1
Canada	1

- Currently, the economic balance of RDP 2003 is a surplus of 1356.83 Euro.
- RDP 2003 is (or is expected to be) sponsored by the following organizations:

Organization	Amount
DSIC (Computer Science Department)	900 Euro
UPV (University of Valencia)	2000 Euro
GV (Local Government)	under evaluation
MCYT (Ministry of Science and Technology)	under evaluation
Colognet	1000 - 2000 Euro

3 Report by the Program Chair of RTA 2004 (*Vincent van Oostrom*)

- RTA 2004 will have a late deadline in order to attract submissions.
- The refereeing process will work in a similar way as for RTA 2003.
- A particular goal of RTA 2004 will be to attract submissions on applications of rewriting. This will also be reflected in the composition of the program committee.

- Currently, prospective PC-members are being contacted in order to compose the PC soon.

4 Report by the Conference Chair of RTA 2004 (*Jürgen Giesl*)

- RTA 2004 will take place in Aachen (Germany) in the first week of June.
- Aachen is on the border of Germany, the Netherlands, and Belgium and near to France (three hours from Paris by train or car). Aachen is also easy to reach by plane (there are four airports nearby).
- The conference will be in the lecture halls of the university which we can use free of charge. Moreover, funding from the DFG (German Science Foundation) is anticipated. Therefore, the registration fee is expected to be low.
- Aachen has more than 40 hotels, many of them reasonably priced.
- RTA will collocate with several workshops (including WRS and the meeting of the IFIP Working Group 1.6 on Term Rewriting). These workshops will take place before or after the conference.

5 Elections moderated by Chair of the Steering Committee (*Aart Middeldorp*)

- Leo Bachmair and Hélène Kirchner leave the steering committee, since they have been on the committee for three conferences.
- Five persons were nominated as new members of the steering committee. They were asked to provide written statements. Since only three persons responded to this request, there are now three candidates for the two positions in the committee: Dan Daugherty, Robert Nieuwenhuis, Ralf Treinen. The election gives the following result:

Candidate	Number of Votes
Dan Daugherty	35
Robert Nieuwenhuis	60
Ralf Treinen	40

  Therefore, Robert Nieuwenhuis and Ralf Treinen are elected as new members of the steering committee.

- The steering committee proposes Jürgen Giesl as the program chair of RTA 2005. The election gives the following result:

Yes	No	Blank
70	6	3

Therefore, Jürgen Giesl is elected as the program chair of RTA 2005.

- For RTA 2005, Hitoshi Ohsaki is proposed as the conference chair and the proposed conference location is Nara (Japan). The election gives the following result:

Yes	No	Blank
69	3	7

Therefore, Hitoshi Ohsaki is elected as the conference chair of RTA 2005 and the conference will take place in Nara.

6 Report/Proposal by the Conference Chair of RTA 2005 (*Hitoshi Ohsaki*)

- The proposal is to collocate RTA and TLCA again in 2005. The conference chair of TLCA will be Masahito Hasegawa.
- The date for the conference is early April 2005 (in the cherry blossom season).
- The conference will take place in the Nara Prefecture Cultural Hall. This hall is in the heart of the historical town, in Nara Park.
- Nara is easy to reach, since there is a direct bus from Kansai airport (80 minutes). Nara can also be reached from Kyoto and Osaka by train in 60 minutes.
- Local support for the conference is provided by the Nara Convention Bureau.
- Accommodation is available at a reasonable price (around 50 Euro).
- The conference fee will also be low. The aim is to have a lower conference fee than any RTA before.
- Rewriting is a very active area in Japan, which is also demonstrated by the high number of Japanese attendants of RTA and TLCA this year. This would be the second RTA and the first TLCA taking place in Japan.