Minutes of the RTA 2006 Business Meeting

August 12 - 14, 2006, Seattle, USA

recorded by René Thiemann

RTA 2006 Steering Chair:	Jürgen Giesl
RTA 2006 Program Chair:	Frank Pfenning
RTA 2006 Conference Chair:	Ashish Tiwari

1 Report by the Program Chair of RTA 2006 (*Ashish Tiwari* representing *Frank Pfenning*)

The report starts with acknowledgments for the work of the program committee, the external referees, and the invited speakers.

The submission process had two stages. In the first stage 62 abstracts were submitted and in the second stage finally 52 papers were submitted (44 regular, 8 system descriptions). The submission numbers of previous RTAs were presented and it turned out that RTA 2006 has an average number of submissions. However, compared with numbers of the last RTA that was part of FLoC there is a minor improvement. RTA 2002 in Copenhagen had only 49 submissions.

The scope of the submissions cover a broad range of RTA related topics where termination is the strongest topic at RTA 2006.

The program committee of RTA 2006 had 14 members. With the help of 115 external reviewers each paper had at least 4 reviews. Finally, 23 regular papers and 4 system descriptions have been accepted. The corresponding acceptance rate is 51.9 percent.

There were three invited talks at RTA 2006. A FLoC plenary talk was given by Randal Bryant about "Formal verification of infinite state systems using Boolean methods", Javier Esparza spoke about "Rewriting models of control-flow", and the talk about "Automated termination analysis for Haskell: From term rewriting to programming languages" was presented by Jürgen Giesl.

The best paper award was given to Dieter Hofbauer and Johannes Waldmann for their paper "Termination of String Rewriting with Matrix Interpretations".

The authors of submitted and accepted paper came from the following countries.

Country	Accepted	Submitted
France	16.66	5.83
Japan	7.50	5.33
The Netherlands	5.50	3.00
USA	4.00	3.00
Spain	3.66	1.66
Germany	3.33	2.33
Austria	3.00	1.50
UK	1.16	0.66
Brazil	1.00	0.00
Denmark	1.00	0.00
Italy	1.00	0.00
Poland	1.00	1.00
Portugal	1.00	1.00
Argentina	0.66	0.66
Australia	0.66	0.66
Tunisia	0.50	0.00
Israel	0.33	0.33

The whole submission and reviewing process was managed by Andrei Voronkov's *EasyChair* system.

2 Report by the Conference Chair of RTA 2006 (*Ashish Tiwari*)

RTA 2006 took place from August 12 to August 15 as part of FLoC 2006. It collocated with the following five other conferences: LICS, SAT, IJCAR, ICLP, and CAV. The sessions of RTA were in parallel with LICS and SAT. There were six workshops affiliated to RTA which is about the same number as for previous RTAs.

- IFIP Working Group 1.6 on Term Rewriting (August 10)
- RULE: International Workshop on Rule-based Programming (August 11)
- Unif: International Workshop on Unification (August 11)
- WRS: International Workshop on Reduction Strategies in Rewriting and Programming (August 11)
- HOR: International Workshop on Higher Order Rewriting (August 15)
- WST: International Workshop on Termination (August 15-16)

There were 76 participants (56 regular, 18 student). This number is bit higher compared to RTA 2002 (70 participants) which was also part of FLoC.

But in the last three years where there has been no FLoC there have been more participants (104 participants in average).

The financial situation is as follows.

Incomings	Estimate (USD)
Registration	28000
FLoC (invited speaker offset)	2000
Total	30000

Expenses	Estimate (USD)
Reception	1920
Banquet	4080
Coffee Breaks	4800
Proceedings	3000
Invited Talks (FLoC covers one speaker)	3600
Best paper	500
EPP	4800
Beamer rental	1800
Program, badges, souvenir,...	1640
Bank charge	832
Total	$\sim$ 27000

There were FLoC wide grants to support student travel.

Some persons from the audience complain about reception costs of 32 USD per person without including drinks.

3 Report on the International School on Rewriting 2006 (*Laurent Vigneron*)

The first International School on Rewriting (ISR 2006) took place from July 3 to July 7 at LORIA Nancy in France. It was organized by the IFIP WG 1.6 on Term Rewriting. The scientific program committee was chaired by Claude Kirchner and consisted of seven members from Europe, Japan, and USA.

ISR 2006 had 37 master- and PhD-students as participants (the plan was to have between 30 and 40 participants). Most of the students are working on rewriting related topics. Half of the participants were French and there was only one participant from outside Europe.

The courses were given by 12 speakers. For the speakers there is a similar distribution on countries as for the participants. Half are from France and only one speaker came from outside Europe. The courses were divided into seven different main topics:

- Basics of term rewriting (5 hours)
- Termination (3 hours)

- Compilation and implementations (3 hours)
- Higher-order rewrite systems (3 hours)
- Call by need and call by value (3 hours)
- Applications (6 hours)
- Advanced Topics (4.5 hours)

Further ISRs are planned for 2007 again in Nancy and for 2008 in Obergurgl, Austria. The organizer in Obergurgl will be Aart Middeldorp. Both ISRs are planned to be directly before or after RTA of the corresponding year.

This year there were no parallel sessions, and these are considered as an improvement for upcoming ISRs: parallel sessions allow to consider the different levels of the participants.

4 Report by the Conference Chairs of RTA 2007 (*Ralf Treinen* and *Xavier Urbain*)

RTA 2007 will be part of the Federated Conference on Rewriting, Deduction, and Programming (RDP 2007), together with the conference on Typed Lambda Calculi and Applications (TLCA 2007) and several workshops. RDP 2007 will take place from June 25 to June 29 in Paris, France. RTA 2007 and TLCA 2007 will take place completely in parallel from June 26 to June 28. On the first and the last day of RDP there will seven or eight one-day workshops: HOR, RULE, UNIF, SecReT, WFLP, WRS, and WST are joining RDP 2007 and one more workshop is pending.

RDP 2007 will take place in the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (CNAM). CNAM is located in the city center of Paris near Les Halles. There are many hotels in walking distance. Middle class hotels cost about 60 EUR per night and can be booked via the Paris tourist office or commercial online brokers. For students there are free student rooms under negotiation and even if the negotiations fail there are cheap student rooms available, e.g., at the Cité Universitaire. Paris is easy to reach by train or plane. Moreover, there are several low-cost airlines that provide flights to Paris.

The registration fee for RTA is projected to be less than 250 EUR and for each workshop day the fee is projected to be less than 70 EUR. The final fees depend on sponsorships from the government and the industry. It is not planned to give students a special fee. The fee for RTA will include lunches, coffee, the banquet, and one copy of the proceedings. For the workshops only lunch and coffee are included in the fee but no proceedings.

5 Report by the Program Chair of RTA 2007 (*Franz Baader*)

The program committee for RTA has been constituted. The deadlines have been fixed to the latest possible dates so that no deadline extensions will be given. The TLCA deadlines for authors are much earlier than the corresponding RTA deadlines. However, in the meantime TLCA has changed the deadlines so that the difference between TLCA deadlines and RTA deadlines has become smaller.

	RTA	TLCA (presented)	TLCA (updated)
Abstract	Jan 26, 2007		Dec 22, 2006
Submission	Jan 31, 2007	Nov 20, 2006	Jan 2, 2007
Revision	Mar 9, 2007		Mar 15, 2007
Notification	Apr 2, 2007	Feb 10, 2007	Mar 25, 2007
Final version	Apr 23, 2007	Mar 25, 2007	Apr 20, 2007

There will be a limit of 15 pages for regular papers and a limit of 10 pages for system descriptions.

6 Proposal of New Steering Committee Members

Robert Nieuwenhuis and Ralf Treinen leave the steering committee, since they have been on the committee for three conferences.

Several candidates 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:

- Maribel Fernández (King's College London, England)
- Bernhard Gramlich (Vienna University of Technology, Austria)
- Joachim Niehren (INRIA Futurs, Lille, France)

The statement of each candidate is distributed to the assembly.

7 Proposal for the 2008 Program Committee Chair

The only candidate for the position of the 2008 program chair is Andrei Voronkov (University of Manchester, England).

8 Proposal for the 2008 Conference Place

There are two different proposals to organize RTA 2008.

- Eindhoven. The proposal is presented by Hans Zantema (Technical University Eindhoven, The Netherlands).
- Linz. The proposal is presented by Temur Kutsia (Johannes Kepler University, Austria) in representation of Bruno Buchberger (Johannes Kepler University, Austria) and himself.

9 Voting

The votes are conducted by secret ballot. There were 45 votes for each item.

- The vote for the two new steering committee members gives the following result:

Maribel Fernández	Bernhard Gramlich	Joachim Niehren
25	36	21

  Therefore, Maribel Fernández and Bernhard Gramlich are elected as new members of the steering committee.

- The vote for the program chair of RTA 2008 gives the following result:

	Yes	No	Blank
Andrei Voronkov	37	4	4

  Therefore, Andrei Voronkov is elected as the program chair of RTA 2008.

- The vote for the 2008 conference place gives the following result:

Eindhoven	Linz	Blank
8	36	1

  Therefore, Linz is elected as 2008 conference place.

10 Discussion

The bylaws state that the steering committee “propose” a PC-chair. It is asked what will happen if the voting at the business meeting is against the proposed candidate and whether one should change the bylaws accordingly.