Lecture Notes in Computer Science 2051

Edited by G. Goos, J. Hartmanis and J. van Leeuwen

Springer
Berlin
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Aart Middeldorp (Ed.)

Rewriting Techniques and Applications

12th International Conference, RTA 2001
Utrecht, The Netherlands, May 22-24, 2001
Proceedings

Springer

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Cataloging-in-Publication Data applied for

Die Deutsche Bibliothek - CIP-Einheitsaufnahme

Rewriting techniques and applications : 12th international conference ; proceedings / RTA 2001, Utrecht, The Netherlands, May 22 - 24, 2001. Aart Middeldorp (ed.). - Berlin ; Heidelberg ; New York ; Barcelona ; Hong Kong ; London ; Milan ; Paris ; Singapore ; Tokyo : Springer, 2001
(Lecture notes in computer science ; Vol. 2051)
ISBN 3-540-42117-3

CR Subject Classification (1998): F.4, F.3.2, D.3, I.2.2-3, I.1

ISSN 0302-9743
ISBN 3-540-42117-3 Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York

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Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York
a member of BertelsmannSpringer Science+Business Media GmbH

http://www.springer.de

© Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2001
Printed in Germany

Typesetting: Camera-ready by author, data conversion by PTP Berlin, Stefan Sossna
Printed on acid-free paper SPIN 10781501 06/3142 5 4 3 2 1 0

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Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of the *12th International Conference on Rewriting Techniques and Applications* (RTA 2001), which was held May 22-24, 2001 at Utrecht University in The Netherlands. RTA is the major forum for the presentation of research on all aspects of rewriting. Previous RTA conferences were held in Dijon (1985), Bordeaux (1987), Chapel Hill (1989), Como (1991), Montreal (1993), Kaiserslautern (1995), Rutgers (1996), Sitges (1997), Tsukuba (1998), Trento (1999), and Norwich (2000).

There were 55 submissions from Argentina ($\frac{2}{3}$), Australia (1), France ($12\frac{2}{3}$), Germany ($11\frac{2}{3}$), Israel ($1\frac{1}{3}$), Italy (2), Japan ($8\frac{1}{2}$), The Netherlands (6), Slovakia ($\frac{1}{3}$), Spain (4), UK ($2\frac{5}{6}$), USA (3), and Venezuela (1), of which the program committee selected 23 regular papers and 2 system descriptions for presentation. In addition, there were invited talks by Arvind (Rewriting the Rules for Chip Design), Henk Barendregt (Computing and Proving), and Michael Rusinowitch (Rewriting for Deduction and Verification).

The program committee awarded the *best paper* prize to Jens R. Woinowski for his paper *A Normal Form for Church-Rosser Language Systems*. In this paper the surprising and important result is shown that all Church-Rosser languages can be defined by string rewrite rules of the form $uvw \to uxw$ with v being nonempty and x having a maximum length of one.

Many people helped to make RTA 2001 a success. I am grateful to the members of the program committee and the external referees for reviewing the submissions and maintaining the high standards of the RTA conferences. It is a particular pleasure to thank Vincent van Oostrom and the other members of the local organizing committee for organizing an excellent conference in a rather short period. Finally, I thank the organizers of the four events that collocated with RTA 2001 for making the conference even more attractive:

- 4th International Workshop on Explicit Substitutions: Theory and Applications to Programs and Proofs (Pierre Lescanne),
- 5th International Workshop on Termination (Nachum Dershowitz),
- International Workshop on Reduction Strategies in Rewriting and Programming (Bernhard Gramlich and Salvador Lucas),
- IFIP Working Group 1.6 on Term Rewriting (Claude Kirchner).

March 2000 Aart Middeldorp

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