

# 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  $uvw \rightarrow uxw$  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).

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*University of Tsukuba*

## Conference Chair

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