

Preface

The International Workshops on Implementation of Functional Languages (IFL) are a tradition that has lasted for over a decade. The aim of these workshops is to bring together researchers to discuss new results and new directions of research related primarily but not exclusively to the implementation of functional or function-based languages. A not necessarily exhaustive list of topics includes: language concepts, type checking, compilation techniques, (abstract) interpretation, automatic program generation, (abstract) machine architectures, array processing, concurrent/parallel programming and program execution, heap management, runtime profiling and performance measurements, debugging and tracing, tools and programming techniques.

IFL 2000 was held at Schloß Rahe, an 18th century castle in Aachen, Germany, during the first week of September 2000. It attracted 49 researchers from the international functional language community, presenting 33 contributions during the four days of the workshop. The contributions covered all topics mentioned above.

In addition, a special session organised by Thomas Arts from the Ericsson Computer Science Laboratory in Stockholm, Sweden, attracted several practitioners from industry who reported on their experiences using the functional language Erlang. The Erlang session was sponsored by Ericsson Computer Science Laboratory.

This year, the workshop was sponsored by local industry (Ericsson Eurolab Deutschland GmbH and debis Systemhaus Aachen), which indicates the growing importance of functional language concepts in commercial spheres. We thank our sponsors for their generous contributions.

With this volume, we follow the lead of the last four IFL workshops in publishing a high-quality subset of the contributions presented at the workshop in the Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science series. All speakers attending the workshop were invited to submit a paper afterwards. Each of the 33 submissions was reviewed by three or four PC members and thoroughly discussed by the PC. We selected 15 papers for publication in this volume.

The overall balance of the papers is representative, both in scope and technical substance, of the contributions made to the Aachen workshop as well as to those that preceeded it. Publication in the LNCS series is not only intended to make these contributions more widely known in the computer science community but also to encourage researchers in the field to participate in future workshops, of which the next one will be held in Stockholm, Sweden in September 2001 (see <http://www.ericsson.se/cslab/ifl2001/> for further details).

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