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Practical Aspects of Declarative Languages

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Preface

The Fifth International Symposium on Practical Aspects of Declarative Languages (PADL 2003) was held in New Orleans on 13–14 January 2003. It was colocated with the 30th Annual ACM Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages (POPL 2003).

We received 57 submissions, a record for PADL. One of the strengths of PADL is that it draws papers from both sides of the declarative divide, from both the functional and logic programming communities. Of the 57 submissions, 25 were functional and 32 were logical, with some notable overlaps.

The program committee was divided on the approach to take to the conference. Those from the logic programming community preferred to have parallel sessions in order to accept more papers, those from the functional programming community preferred to avoid parallel sessions though it meant accepting fewer papers. We decided to find strength in diversity, and experiment with taking both paths. We accepted 8 papers on functional programming, each presented in its own slot, and 15 papers on logic programming, 10 of which are presented in parallel sessions. We felt that papers from both communities were comparable in quality. The ratio of 4 hours of functional talks to 5 hours of logic talks matches the ratio of submissions.

While most papers submitted to PADL are traditional research papers, some were submitted as Application Letters or Declarative Pearls. Traditional papers may be judged on whether they present a crisp new research result; Application Letters may be judged according to the interest in the application and the novel use of declarative languages; and Declarative Pearls may be judged according to the elegance of the development and the clarity of the expression.

This year PADL instituted a "Most Practical" paper award, for the paper that best exemplified the goals of PADL. The award went to "Data mining the yeast genome in a lazy functional language", Amanda Clare and Ross D. King, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, which describes a real-word application running on multiprocessors, drawing on techniques from both the functional and logic programming communities.

Special thanks are due: to Shriram Krishnamurthi, Dave Tucker, and Paul Graunke of Brown University, for running the website of the PADL submission and review process (see Krishnamurthi's invited talk in this volume); to Martina Sharp of Avaya Labs and Kimberly Voll of Simon Fraser University, for help with preparing this volume; and to Gopal Gupta of the University of Texas at Dallas, for serving as general chair. We thank Avaya Labs, Brown University, Simon Fraser University, Université de Provence, and the University of Texas at Dallas for their support.

Our thanks to the program committee members and referees for their reviewing and for their advice. Finally, our thanks to all those who submitted papers to or participated in PADL 2003.

November 2003

Veronica Dahl
Philip Wadler

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António Porto, Bart Demoen, Carlos Viegas Damásio, Fernando Silva, Frank Huch, Gilberto Filè, Greg Cooper, Haruo Hosoya, Hassan Aït-Kaci, Jens Peter Secher, João Alexandre Leite, Joachim Schimpf, John C. Peterson, John Regher, Kathi Fisler, Kenjiro Taura, Laurent Michel, Luis Caires, Luis Castro, Marluce R. Pereira, Mirek Truszczynski, Nancy Glenn, Neng-Fa Zhou, Niels H. Christensen, Nuno A. Fonseca, Patrícia Kayser Vargas, Paul Graunke, Paulo Quaresma, Pedro Barahona, Pierangelo Dell'Acqua, Reinhard Kahle, Vitor Santos Costa

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