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Implementation and Application of Functional Languages

21st International Symposium, IFL 2009
South Orange, NJ, USA, September 23-25, 2009
Revised Selected Papers



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Volume Editors

Marco T. Morazán

Seton Hall University, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

400 South Orange Avenue, South Orange, NJ 07079, USA

E-mail: morazanm@shu.edu

Sven-Bodo Scholz

University of Hertfordshire, School of Computer Science

College Lane, Hatfield, Herts AL10 9AB, UK

E-mail: S.Scholz@herts.ac.uk

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Preface

This volume contains the selected peer-reviewed revised articles that were presented at the 21st International Symposium on Implementation and Application of Functional Languages (IFL 2009). IFL 2009 was held September 23–25, 2009 at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ, USA. This version of the IFL symposium marked a milestone by being the first ever to be held in the United States. Our goals are to make IFL a regular event held in the USA and in Europe by alternating the host continent every year and to foster collaborations, interactions, and friendships between researchers and practitioners on both continents and beyond.

The IFL symposia bring together researchers and practitioners that are actively engaged in the implementation and the use of functional and function-based programming languages. Every year IFL provides a venue for the presentation and discussion of new ideas and concepts, of work in progress, and of publication-ripe results. Participants are invited to submit either a draft paper or an extended abstract describing work to be presented at the symposium. These submissions are screened by the Program Committee Chair to make sure they are within the scope of IFL. The submissions accepted for presentation appear in the *draft* proceedings distributed at the symposium. Submissions appearing in the draft proceedings are not peer-reviewed publications. After the symposium, authors are given the opportunity to consider the feedback received from discussions at the symposium and are invited to submit revised, full articles to the formal review process. The revised submissions are reviewed by the Program Committee using prevailing academic standards, and the best submissions are chosen to appear in the formal proceedings. This volume is the result of the work done by the IFL 2009 Program Committee and the contributing authors.

Benjamin C. Pierce, the IFL 2009 guest speaker from the University of Pennsylvania, delivered an engaging talk entitled “How to Build Your Own Bidirectional Programming Language.” Pierce focused on the semantics and the implementation of programming languages that not only update their output based on changes in the input, but that also update their input based on changes made to the output. In addition, Pierce discussed several sample applications that are well-suited for bidirectional programming languages, like bidirectional transformations on trees for XML documents, on relational data, and on strings. He enthusiastically engaged questions posed by IFL 2009 participants and we thank him for his contribution to IFL 2009.

Following in the IFL tradition, IFL 2009 provided participants with an opportunity to get to know each other and to talk outside the formal setting of presentations with a social event on the second day of the symposium. Participants traveled to Manhattan to visit the observatory at Rockefeller Center and to walk across the Brooklyn Bridge. After the visit to Manhattan, participants

traveled to the symposium's banquet dinner in the Ironbound neighborhood of Newark, NJ where they were treated to a traditional Spanish tapas and dinner feast with a flamenco show.

Shortly before IFL 2009, the programming languages community lost one of its most distinguished members. In June of 2009 Peter J. Landin passed away. At IFL, we dearly felt his passing. IFL has honored Peter since 2003 by awarding each year the Peter J. Landin Award to the best article presented at the symposium. The recipients of the award for IFL 2009 are Vincent St-Amour and Marc Feeley, from the Université de Montréal in Canada, for their contribution entitled "*PICOBIT: A Compact Scheme System for Microcontrollers*."

IFL 2009 was made possible by the generous support provided by Jane Street Capital, Seton Hall University's Office of the Provost, Seton Hall University's College of Arts and Sciences, and Seton Hall University's Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. At Seton Hall, a heart-felt thank you for their extraordinary efforts to make IFL 2009 a success is extended to Associate Provost Kirk Rawn, Dean Joseph R. Marbach, Dean Susan Kilduff, Joan Guetti, Lysa D. Martinelli, and Thomas A. McGee. We are equally grateful to Yaron Minsky from Jane Street Capital. A debt of gratitude for addressing every need that came up during the symposium is owed to Rositsa Abrasheva, Florian Buchberger, and Barbara Mucha. We thank all the members of the Program Committee for their advice, time, and thoughtful reviews and all the members of the organizing committee for their logistical support without which this volume would have never have become a reality. We are very grateful to Daniel P. Friedman from the University of Indiana for selflessly assisting with the editing of the articles appearing in this volume. Finally, we thank the authors for submitting their articles and trusting that we would do our best to positively showcase their work.

In closing, we trust that the readers of this volume will find its contents engaging hopefully inspiring them to start or continue their work on the implementation and the use of functional languages. Make sure to join us at a future version of IFL!

April 2010

Marco T. Morazán
Sven-Bodo Scholz

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