Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at the Second Workshop on the Practical Applications of Declarative Languages (PADL'00) held in Boston, MA, USA, January 17–18, 2000. PADL'00 was co-located with the 27th ACM Conference on the Principles of Programming Languages (POPL'00). The event was organized by COMPULOG AMERICAS.

Declarative languages build on a sound theoretical basis to provide attractive frameworks for application development. Indeed, these languages have been successfully applied to vastly different real-world situations, ranging from data base management to active networks to software engineering to decision support systems, to mention a few examples. One major strength of declarative languages lies in the way work on efficient implementation has allowed programmers to take advantage of their strong theoretical foundations. In fact, new developments in theory and implementation often open up new application areas. On the other hand, as declarative languages are applied to novel problems, a number of interesting research issues arise. Well-known issues include designing for scalability, language extensions for application deployment, and programming environments. Thus, applications are both a cause for and benefit from progress in the theory and implementation of declarative systems.

The goal of the International Workshop on Practical Aspects of Declarative Languages (PADL) series is to provide a forum where researchers, practitioners, and implementors of declarative languages may exchange ideas on current and novel application areas and on the requirements for effective deployment of declarative systems. This volume contains the proceedings of the year 2000 workshop, held in Boston, Massachusetts, January 17–18, 2000. Thirty-six papers were submitted in response to the call for papers. These papers were written by authors from fifteen countries from four continents. Each paper was assigned to at least three referees for reviewing. Twenty-one papers were finally selected for presentation at the workshop. Many good papers could not be included due to the limited duration of the workshop. The workshop included invited talks by Peter Lee of Carnegie Mellon University, speaking on "Production-Quality Proof-Carrying Code," and by I.V. Ramakrishnan of SUNY Stony Brook, speaking on "Current Trends in Logic Programming: Prospects and Promises".

The workshop was sponsored and organized by COMPULOG AMERICAS (`http://www.cs.nmsu.edu/~complog`), a network of research groups dedicated to promoting research in logic programming, by the Association for Logic Programming (`http://www.cwi.nl/projects/alp`), and by the Department of Computer Science, New Mexico State University (`http://www.cs.nmsu.edu/`). The workshop was held in cooperation with the ACM Interest Group on Programming Languages. The support of many individuals was crucial to the success of this workshop. Our sincere thanks go to Gopal Gupta for his help in managing and organizing every aspect of the workshop and for sharing his expertise

gained from the organization of PADL'99. Thanks are also due to Krzysztof Apt, President of ALP, and David S. Warren, former President of ALP, for their support and encouragement, to Mark Wegman, POPL General Chair, Tomas Reps, POPL Program Chair, Donna Baglio and Maritza Nichols of ACM, for answering various organizational questions, and to the referees for their prompt reviewing of papers. Our thanks to the program committee members for all their help in reviewing and their advice. Finally, our special thanks to all the authors who took interest in PADL'00 and submitted papers.

October 1999   Enrico Pontelli and Vítor Santos Costa

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