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Introduction

I am pleased to present here the final proceedings for ISLIP 1998, the eleventh annual International Symposium on Languages for Intensional Programming, held 7-9 May 1998 at Sun Microsystems, Palo Alto, California.

A quick look at the titles alone reveals how much ISLIP has advanced beyond the original idea of a simple 'Lucid workshop.' Our understanding of applied intensional logic has deepened and broadened and every year sees new areas of application. One clear trend is the use of intensional techniques in various Web tools. This is hardly surprising, and was in fact predicted, because the Web is based on exactly the kind of dataflow model (tagged, demand driven) that has been used for many years to implement Lucid.

Logic programming also continues to be a fruitful area of investigation, especially in conjunction with the branching time model first introduced to implement higher order functions in Lucid.

I can perhaps be forgiven for drawing attention to my own work (with C. Wadge) applying multidimensional versioning to natural language processing. In a sense, though, this should hardly be a surprise; the study of intensional logic (from Aristotle through Montague) has always been primarily motivated by the desire to formalize natural language.

Although we have come a long way from Lucid, we have not left it; the multidimensional version (GLU) is far from realizing its full potential in scientific/engineering computation. The same must be said of SIGNAL and other Lucid-inspired real time languages. In fact, SIGNAL (and even earlier LUSTRE) represent the first and still the most successful practical applications of intensional programming.

I think it would be a good idea to say a little about the ISLIP refereeing procedure. Each year we encourage a range of different kinds of submissions, from short abstracts on work in progress to full conference papers. The nature of the submission determines the nature of the refereeing. A full paper is read carefully, just as with any conference. With the abstracts, however the process is more informal, and we require only that the contribution be (1) relevant to intensional programming, (2) interesting and original, and (3) technically plausible (but not necessarily complete and demonstrably successful).

Finally, I would like to thank Jagannathan and Tony Faustini for local arrangements and Sun Microsystems providing facilities. And I also want to thank Thierry Gautier, our invited speaker for his presentation and the follow-up paper (included in these proceedings).

Bill Wadge, Victoria BC, November 1998