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# Generic Programming

International Seminar on Generic Programming  
Dagstuhl Castle, Germany, April 27-May 1, 1998  
Selected Papers



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# Preface

This volume contains contributed papers from participants in the Generic Programming Seminar held 27 April – 1 May 1998 at the Dagstuhl Conference Center in Wadern, Germany.

Generic programming is a sub-discipline of computer science that deals with finding abstract representations of efficient algorithms, data structures, and other software concepts, and with their systematic organization. The goal of generic programming is to express algorithms and data structures in a broadly adaptable, interoperable form that allows their direct use in software construction. Among the most obvious achievements of this relatively new programming paradigm are new libraries of software components, both in areas of fundamental and broadly used algorithms and data structures – the Standard Template Library – and in more specialized areas such as computer algebra, graph theory, and computational geometry. As useful as such components may be, however, they are probably less important than the overall generic programming methodology being developed. The papers collected here are reports from the field on the major problems and emerging solutions of generic programming methodology.

June 2000

Mehdi Jazayeri  
Rüdiger Loos  
David Musser

## Organization

The Generic Programming Seminar was held 27 April – 1 May 1998 at the Conference Center of the Schloß Dagstuhl, located in Wadern, Germany (near Saarbrücken). There were forty nine attendees from ten countries. The formal program of the meeting included thirty seven lectures, a panel session on software library standardization, and a discussion of open problems and projects. Many informal discussions also took place, one of the many benefits of the Dagstuhl setting. The traditional Dagstuhl social event was at this meeting a Baroque concert held in the chapel of the Schloß.

### Organizers

Mehdi Jazayeri	Technical University of Vienna
Rüdiger Loos	Tübingen University
David Musser	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Alexander Stepanov	SGI

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# Table of Contents

## Foundations and Methodology Comparisons

Fundamentals of Generic Programming . . . . .	1
<i>James C. Dehnert, Alexander Stepanov (Silicon Graphics, Inc.)</i>	
Requirement Oriented Programming . . . . .	12
<i>David Musser, Sibylle Schupp (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Rüdiger Loos (University of Tübingen)</i>	
Generative Programming and Active Libraries . . . . .	25
<i>Krzysztof Czarniecki (DaimlerChrysler), Ulrich Eisenecker (Fachhochschule Heidelberg), Robert Glück (University of Copenhagen), David Vandevoorde (Edison Design Group), Todd Veldhuizen (University of Indiana)</i>	
The Refinement Relation of Graph-Based Generic Programs . . . . .	40
<i>Karl Lieberherr (Northeastern University), Boaz Patt-Shamir (Northeastern University and Tel Aviv University)</i>	
The Construction Principles of the Class Library KARLA . . . . .	53
<i>Wolf Zimmermann (University of Karlsruhe), Arne Frick (Tom Sawyer Software), Rainer Neumann (University of Karlsruhe)</i>	

## Programming Methodology

Exception-Safety in Generic Components . . . . .	69
<i>David Abrahams (Dragon Systems)</i>	
Segmented Iterators and Hierarchical Algorithms . . . . .	80
<i>Matthew H. Austern (Silicon Graphics, Inc.)</i>	
Theory and Generality of Complete Traversals . . . . .	91
<i>David R. Musser (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Arturo J. Sánchez-Ruiz (Central University of Venezuela)</i>	
A Data Abstraction Alternative to Data Structure/Algorithm Modularization . . . . .	102
<i>Murali Sitaraman (West Virginia University), Bruce W. Weide, Timothy J. Long, William F. Ogden (Ohio State University)</i>	



**Language Design**

Two Ways to Bake Your Pizza—Translating Parameterised Types into Java 114  
*Martin Odersky (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne), Enno Runne (University of Karlsruhe), Philip Wadler (Lucent Technologies)*

SUCHTHAT—Generic Programming Works ..... 133  
*Sibylle Schupp (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Rüdiger Loos (University of Tübingen)*

**Specification and Verification**

Software Development in PVS Using Generic Development Steps ..... 146  
*Axel Dold (Universität Ulm)*

Model Checking Generic Container Implementations ..... 162  
*Matthew B. Dwyer, Corina S. Păsăreanu (Kansas State University)*

Mizar Correctness Proofs of Generic Fraction Field Arithmetic ..... 178  
*Christoph Schwarzweller (University of Tübingen)*

Language Independent Container Specification ..... 192  
*Alexandre V. Zamulin (Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk)*

**Applications**

Applications of the Generic Programming Paradigm in the Design of CGAL 206  
*Hervé Brönnimann (INRIA Sophia-Antipolis), Lutz Kettner (ETH Zürich), Stefan Schirra (MPI Saarbrücken), Remco Veltkamp (Utrecht University)*

Generic Programming in POOMA and PETE ..... 218  
*James A. Crotinger, Julian Cummings, Scott Haney, William Humphrey, Steve Karmesin, John Reynders, Stephen Smith, Timothy J. Williams (Los Alamos National Laboratory)*

The STL Model in the Geometric Domain ..... 232  
*Ullrich Köthe (Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics, Rostock), Karsten Weihe (University of Konstanz)*

Generic Graph Algorithms ..... 249  
*Dietmar Kühl (Claas Solutions)*

A Generic Programming Environment for High-Performance Mathematical Libraries ..... 256  
*Wolfgang Schreiner, Werner Danielczyk-Landerl, Mircea Marin, Wolfgang Stöcher (RISC-Linz)*

**Author Index** ..... 269