

# 2nd Summit on Advances in Programming Languages

SNAPL 2017, May 7–10, 2017, Asilomar, CA, USA

Edited by

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## ■ Preface

This is the second running of the Summit on Advances in Programming Languages (SNAPL), a new venue for the programming languages community. The goal of SNAPL is to complement existing conferences by discussing big-picture questions. After the success of the first SNAPL in 2015, we hope to continue growing the venue into a place where our community comes to enjoy talks with inspiring ideas, fresh insights, and lots of discussion. Open to perspectives from both industry and academia, SNAPL values innovation, experience-based insight, and vision. Not affiliated with any other organization, SNAPL is organized by the PL community for the PL community. We planned to hold SNAPL every two years in early May in Asilomar, California, and this second running is consistent with that plan.

SNAPL has drawn on the elements from many successful meeting formats such as the database community's CIDR conference, the security community's NSPW workshop, and others, and continues to evolve its own particular flavor. The focus on SNAPL is not primarily on papers but rather on talks and interaction. Nevertheless, a short paper is the primary medium by which authors request and obtain time to speak. A good SNAPL entry, however, does not have the character of a regular conference submission – we already have plenty of venues for those. Rather, it is closer to the character of an invited talk, encompassing all the diversity that designation suggests: visionary idea, progress report, retrospective, analysis of mistakes, call to action, and more. Thus, a SNAPL submission should be viewed more as a “request to give an invited talk”.

In the process of assembling SNAPL 2017, we also realized that SNAPL serves an additional useful role: serving as a discussion venue for programming languages akin to the role the Snowbird conference plays for computer science chairs and deans. In this spirit, we invited the community to suggest the names of junior researchers in programming languages who would be interesting to invite, and selected a few names from this long and impressive list. We also intend to invite a few senior researchers to address the gathering.

Overall, the submissions suggest SNAPL remains an interesting and valuable venue. Its main weakness was fewer submissions than we expected (28, but of sufficient quality that we were able to accept 18). We have heard three problems with the organization: the submission date was poorly timed (January 6 was too close to or amidst vacation time), there was insufficiently broad publicity, and the chosen date clashes with a few other venues. The first two of these, in particular, seem easy to remedy in the future.

Benjamin S. Lerner, Rastislav Bodík, and Shriram Krishnamurthi  
*May, 2017*



