

Report on the 19th Brazilian Symposium on Databases (SBBD 2004)

Sérgio Lifschitz

Departamento de Informática
Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro
Rua Marquês de São Vicente 225
22453-900 Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
sergio@inf.puc-rio.br

Alberto H. F. Laender

Departamento de Ciência da Computação
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais
31270-901 Belo Horizonte, Brasil
laender@dcc.ufmg.br

Introduction

The Brazilian Symposium on Databases (SBBD) is an annual event promoted by the Brazilian Computer Society (SBC) through its Database Special Committee. In 2004, the 19th edition of SBBD was held in Brasília, Brazil's capital, on 18-20 October, organized by the Computer Science Department of the University of Brasília (UnB). As in the previous years, SBBD 2004 received the in-cooperation status from ACM SIGMOD and was partially supported by the VLDB Endowment, thus confirming the recognition of the international community of SBBD as the most important database event in Latin America.

As it has since 1995, SBBD 2004 was organized in conjunction with the Brazilian Symposium on Software Engineering. Thus, the entire week (October 18-22) was taken by both symposia. Their technical programs were enriched with several other smaller events, among them the 3rd Workshop on Thesis and Dissertations in Databases, the Workshop on Semantic Web and the Workshop on Aspect-Oriented Software Development. In addition, 12 short-courses, mostly oriented to graduate and undergraduate students, covering several subjects in Databases and Software Engineering, also happened in parallel with the main events. All together, the two symposia attracted an audience of over 600 attendees.

Program Overview

SBBD gathers researchers, students and practitioners, not only from Brazil but from other countries too, for discussing problems related to the main topics in modern database technologies. Besides technical sessions, the Symposium also

includes tutorials and invited talks given by distinguished speakers from the international research community.

SBBD 2004 received 111 paper submissions, mostly from Brazil but also from other countries such as France, Germany, New Zealand, Portugal, Uruguay, and USA. Each submitted paper was evaluated by at least three reviewers and the Program Committee ended up selecting 25 papers (22% acceptance ratio) for presentation at the technical sessions and inclusion in the Symposium proceedings. The 25 accepted papers cover a variety of important and timely database related research topics, and were grouped in the following 8 technical sessions: "Data Mining", "Parallel and Distributed Query Processing", "Data Warehousing", "Access Methods", "Learning Objects, Information Retrieval and Concurrency Control", "Data Storage and Consistency", "Web Querying", and "Data Modeling Issues".

Three internationally recognized scholars were invited to submit papers and give talks at SBBD 2004. The first talk, "Narratives over Real-life and Fictional Domains", was given by Antonio Furtado (PUC-Rio, Brazil) and addressed many aspects on intelligent databases. Raghu Ramakrishnan (University of Wisconsin at Madison, USA) presented the second talk, entitled "The EDAM Project: Exploratory Data Analysis and Management at Wisconsin", in which he discussed some data mining issues and research ideas. The third talk was given by Serge Abiteboul (INRIA Futurs, France) on "Active XML, Security and Access Control," a very interesting research topic related to advanced XML applications. All three invited talks directly involved the audience, which was delighted with the opportunity to attend these nice presentations

and participate with questions and discussions right after.

Tutorials also have been a major part of SBBB since they provide a unique opportunity to introduce and discuss new database research topics. In 2004, the following three tutorials, selected from 14 submissions, were included in the final program: “XML Query Processing: Storage and Query Model Interplay”, by Ioana Manolescu (INRIA-Futurs, France), “Web Semantics and Services: Automatic Integration of Web Resources”, by Maria Luiza Campos and Paulo Pires (UFRJ, Brazil), and “Mining Web Use”, by Karin Becker and Mariângela Vanzin (PUC-RS, Brazil). Tutorials were open to all SBBB participants and attracted an attentive audience.

SBBB 2004 program also included a very successful demo session and a panel. The demo session included the presentation of 10 tools which were selected by a specific committee from 26 submissions. This session attracted a huge audience eager to know about new developments in the database area. The panel, on “Next Steps in Database Research: Academic Prototypes and Industrial Products”, was chaired by Alberto Laender (UFMG, Brazil) and counted with the participation of Serge Abiteboul (INRIA Futurs, France), Marco Casanova (PUC-Rio, Brazil), Theo Härder (University of Kaiserslautern, Germany), and Raghu Ramakrishnan (University of Wisconsin at Madison, USA). During the panel, each participant presented his view on the current state-of-the-art in database research and of how research results can be transformed into industrial products. The presentations were followed by an enthusiastic discussion among the members of the panel and the audience, in which very interesting and successful industrial experiences were reported.

Best Paper Award

As it is a tradition since 1998, the best papers selected for presentation at SBBB 2004 were nominated by the Program Committee to the José Mauro de Castilho Award. This award is a tribute to one of the pioneering database researchers in Brazil and aims at recognizing among the highest quality selected papers the one with the most

relevant contribution to the area. In 2004, this award was given to the paper “Visual Analysis of Feature Selection for Data Mining Processes” by Humberto L. Rezende, Fabio Jun Takada Chino, Maria Camila N. Barioni, Agma J. M. Traina, and Caetano Traina Jr. from the University of São Paulo at São Carlos. An extended and revised version of this paper is expected to appear in the Journal of the Brazilian Computer Society.

Conclusions

The three-day SBBB 2004 program provided a stimulating environment for discussing and disseminating ideas on some of the most important issues in current database research. The high quality of this program resulted from the outstanding work done by the Program Committee, formed by researchers from the Brazilian and international communities. The support received from ACM SIGMOD and the VLDB Endowment has also been very important to help disseminate SBBB among the international community, therefore increasing the number of submissions from other countries. The success of the demo session and the panel indicates that they should be kept as part of future SBBB programs.

Next SBBB will be held in Uberlândia, Minas Gerais, on October 3-7, 2005. Its call-for-papers and additional information are already available at <http://www.sbbd-sbes2005.ufu.br>.

SBBB organizers are committed to publicize and make widely available the Symposium technical papers. Indeed, since last year SBBB papers are indexed by DBLP and ACM DiSC includes SBBB papers from 2001 onwards. Particularly, an electronic version of SBBB 2004 proceedings may be downloaded from <http://www.sbbd.unb.br/files/Anais/menu.html>.

Acknowledgements

SBBB 2004 organizers acknowledge the financial support received from the Brazilian Government agencies CNPq FINEP and CAPES, from the Science and Technology Secretary of Brasília, and from the Brazilian branches of Microsoft and Sybase.