

Editor's Notes

The technical papers section of this issue consists of three regular papers and a tutorial. The first paper, by Michael Stonebraker, proposes partial indexing of relation's columns and points out cases that can benefit from this scheme. The second paper is a note by C.J. Date on an anomaly in Codd's relational calculus. The next paper, by Gunter von Bultzingsslowen, addresses the problem of translating SQL queries into efficient parallel execution plans for a multi-processor database machine. Toby Teorey provides us with an interesting tutorial (including an example) on distributed database design.

Following the above technical papers Elizabeth Fong and Alan Goldfine of the National Institute of Standards and Technology present an Executive Summary of the Information Management Direction Workshop. Next is a description of database research at the Institute of Systems Science in Singapore. Haim Kilov has provided us with his second review of recent object-oriented papers (the first review appeared in this year's March issue). This issue of the RECORD is concluded with calls for papers and participation (thanks to Felix Saltor for compiling part of them), and with pictures from the last SIGMOD conference (courtesy of Fred Springsteel and Jacob Stein).

Finally, I encourage readers to contribute items of interest to the SIGMOD community. In particular, I am interested in book, paper, and conference reviews, and in summary of database research activities (similar to the one in this issue).

Arie Segev
October 15, 1989

Chair's Message

During the past two months, I have filled the SIGMOD Chair's Advisory Committee. The SIGMOD Advisory Committee will consist of (in alphabetical ordering) Francois Bancilhon, Dave DeWitt, Mike Stonebraker, and Jeff Ullman. I am most grateful for their willingness to help me for the duration of my term. I will invite three more Advisors in 1990. My plan is to solicit opinions from the Advisors and the SIGMOD Officers (Laura Haas, Mike Carey, and Arie Segev) before finalizing decisions on major issues concerning SIGMOD.

With help from the SIGMOD Advisors and Officers, I have also formulated a strawman plan for the role that SIGMOD should play in addressing some of the problems posed by the recent proliferation of database conferences. I believe that the most important factor which has contributed to the proliferation of database conferences is the rapid expansion of the scope of research in databases and the significant advances in databases around the world. As such, I have decided to try to expand the umbrella of the SIGMOD conference, so that it will become a forum for the database community which responds to the recent changes in the database landscape. I envision expanding the SIGMOD umbrella in three directions.

First is to attract worthy database workshops around (i.e., before or after) the SIGMOD conference. The idea is to allow participants of the workshops and the SIGMOD conference to be able to attend both events in one trip, and for SIGMOD to promote rapid progress in various emerging areas in databases. I would like to ask those with ideas for interesting and timely workshops to contact me or the organizers of the SIGMOD conference.

Second is for SIGMOD to play an important role in creating a forum for cooperation between database theorists and non-theorists. One of the disappointments in the field of databases has been the lack of synergy between these two camps. I will work with the Program Chairs for future SIGMOD conferences to find ways to address this problem. Hector Garcia-Molina, Program Chair for the 1990 SIGMOD conference, has increased the theory representation in the Program Committee in order to encourage paper submissions from the theory community. I am working on other ideas as well. There are many problems that need to be addressed before database technology can effectively satisfy the requirements of the ever-broadening range of database applications. If the two camps can work together, we should be able to solve these problems better and sooner. I would like to encourage database theorists to submit papers to the SIGMOD conference; I will ask the Program Chairs to make sure theory papers are treated fairly and properly.

Third is to make the SIGMOD conference more international by promoting greater participation by the database community from outside of North America. There have been significant advances in databases in Europe and Asia during the past several years, and I believe that the database community from these regions should be encouraged to participate in the SIGMOD conference to discuss their thoughts, problems, and solutions with their colleagues in North America.

With lots of help from the SIGMOD Advisors and Officers, I am working on ideas for implementing the above strawman plan. I hope to be able to report them to you in the near future. I also would like to invite you to help me with your own ideas.

We will soon start working on the idea of corporate sponsorships for SIGMOD in an attempt to expand our budget. Mike Carey, SIGMOD Treasurer, will be in charge of this new effort. Some other SIGs have had corporate sponsorships already, including SIGMETRICS and SIGACT.

During the fiscal year '89 which ended on June 30, the total income for SIGMOD was \$134,843; and the total expenses came to \$120,111. The bulk of the expenses was the cost of printing and distributing the SIGMOD RECORD (including the SIGMOD conference proceedings). Two major sources of income are the membership dues and surplus from conferences SIGMOD sponsored and co-sponsored. The current balance of the SIGMOD fund is \$22,465.

Won Kim
October 1989