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Editor's Notes

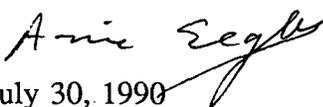
This issue includes two new features. First, we have instituted a regular section on Database Research Centers. Contributions to this section are by invitation and are handled by the Associate Editors Amit Sheth and Timos Sellis. The first such report, describing database research activities in Bellcore, is included in this issue. If you are interested in describing the activities in your organization, you should coordinate it with either Amit (amit@ctt.bellcore.com) or Timos (timos@mykines.cs.umd.edu).

The second feature is Database Research Surveys which is handled by the new Associate Editor Hank Korth. I would like to take this opportunity and thank Hank for agreeing to coordinate this activity. This new feature has been motivated by the increasing difficulty in monitoring developments as the scope of database research expands and the number of conferences and journals increases. Each article will be limited to only a few of the best or most influential articles within a relatively narrow subarea of database technology. The goal is to provide a starting point for a reader interested in determining the current status of work in a given area. As such, review articles will emphasize recent papers rather than classic papers. The objective is not a comprehensive bibliography, but rather a presentation of the best of recent work. Articles in this series are to be invited contributions by leading researchers. Suggestions are welcome and should be directed to Hank Korth, Department of Computer Sciences, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712-1188 USA, (phone:512-471-9716, fax:512-4717028, email:hfk@cs.utexas.edu). This issue includes the first of a series of survey articles devoted to recent research in a single subarea of database research or development. This article was written by Yuri Breitbart, and it deals with Multidatabases.

We plan to include the above two features in each Sigmod Record issue (except for the June issue, which contains the conference proceedings). A third feature (to appear in future issues) will include funding information in the database area.

This issue includes a report by The Committee for Advanced DBMS Function prescribing the characteristics that must be satisfied by the next generation of data managers; readers are welcome to respond to this manifesto. The regular articles section includes four contributions. Roberto Zicari describes in his paper how to handle incomplete information in object-oriented databases. The paper by Bhavani Thuraisingham deals with the computation of Transitive Closures in secure DBMSs, and the paper by Li Lei, G.-H. Moll and J. Kouloumdjian describes an efficient architecture for deductive databases. Finally, Jyrki Nummenmaa and Peter Thanisch inform us that the problem of Minimal Covers is not solved yet (or maybe it is).

Arie Segev


July 30, 1990

Chair's Message

First of all, I would like to thank the organizers of SIGMOD '90 for their hard work in pulling off another successful SIGMOD Conference. The technical program of the conference was well-received. Further, despite the fact that the conference was held in a city with no airport, it managed to attract 450 attendance, well in excess of estimated attendance level.

It is my pleasure to announce that the ACM SIGMOD Conference and The Symposium on Principles of Database Systems will be held jointly for two years starting in 1991 in a community-wide experiment to bring together applied database researches and database theorists. The two conferences will retain their identities by having separate program committees, and business meetings, and publishing separate proceedings. However, there will be a single organizing committee. Further, the two conferences will be held at the same site as largely parallel tracks (but still sharing several key events such as the conference banquet, tutorials, panels, keynote addresses, and some paper sessions). Further, a single registration will entitle a registrant to both proceedings and all events of both conferences. The decision to or not to continue this arrangement will be made shortly after the 1992 joint conference, most likely on the basis of the decision from the business meetings of both conferences.

I would like to thank the SIGMOD advisors, SIGMOD officers, PODS executive committee, and many colleagues who encouraged me to realize this. I would welcome any constructive suggestions to make this arrangement pay major dividends for the database community.

The general chair for SIGMOD/PODS '91 is Dan Moore of US West; the PC Chair for SIGMOD '91 is Roger King of the University of Colorado at Boulder, and the PC Chair for PODS '91 is Alberto Mendelzon of the University of Toronto. The general chair for SIGMOD/PODS '92 is Victor Vianu of the University of California at San Diego; the PC chair for SIGMOD '92 will be Mike Stonebraker of the University of California at Berkeley; the PC chair for PODS '92 has not been decided at this time. SIGMOD/PODS '91 will be held in Denver, Colorado, on May 29-31 (The site chosen initially was Boulder, Colorado; however, the realization of the joint conference made it necessary to change it to Denver). SIGMOD/PODS '92 will be held in San Diego, California.

The drive for SIGMOD institutional sponsorship has resulted in six sponsors to date, including MCC, Mitsubishi Electric, Hewlett-Packard, Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute (Korea), IBM, and DEC. On behalf of SIGMOD, I thank these institutions, and would like to encourage additional institutions to come forward with their sponsorship.

The financial success of the SIGMOD-sponsored conferences during the past few years and the institutional sponsorship program have resulted in some surplus in our budget and made it possible for SIGMOD to expand its services to not only SIGMOD members but also to the database community as a whole. It is my pleasure to announce three new services. First, SIGMOD RECORD will have 2-3 new regular features, starting with this issue, including an invited section providing summary of worthy recent research results in a selected topical area in databases and invited section providing an overview of database research activities

in a selected institute around the world, and a periodic news section on database research funding. Second, SIGMOD will offer up to 100 free memberships to university libraries in Third World countries (in particular, East European countries which permit free elections). Please encourage worthy universities in these countries to write to ACM to apply for free memberships. Third, from 1991, students registering for the SIGMOD conference will receive proceedings and conference luncheon tickets.

Finally, I would like to add a personal note. On May 18, I left MCC to start a database company in Austin, Texas. The completion of the ORION object-oriented database project marked a logical break point for me after six years of association with MCC. Although my company, UNIDATA, Inc, will develop advanced database systems and accompanying application development tools, my plan is to make UNIDATA a cross between a startup and R&D laboratory, and as such I definitely intend to retain my relationships with and commitments to the database community (in particular, I shall carry out my duties as SIGMOD chair just as I envisioned before leaving MCC).

Won Kim
July 1990
Austin, TX