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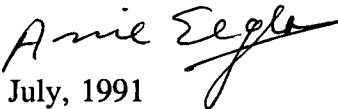
Editor's Notes

The regular articles section includes eight contributions. The first paper by B. Salzberg and D. Lomet deals with analytical results of spatial access methods; this paper is related to the paper by O. Guenther and A. Buchmann that appeared in the special issue on Directions for Future Database Research & Development. The second paper, by C. Fratarcangeli, describes a technique to facilitate the construction of universal quantification queries in ANSI SQL. It is followed by V. Streeter's paper that describes an extension of SQL called MQL. The issue of missing values is visited again by two papers. The first, by G. Gessert, proposes the use of default values instead of missing values, while the paper K. Yue presents a model for handling missing information using a 3-Valued Logic. The short note by H. Buff is also related to missing values, and it presents a complete identity set for Codd algebras. Next, there is a paper on modern client-server DBMS architectures by N. Roussopoulos and A. Delis; the paper describes three such architectures and compare their performance characteristics. The regular article section is concluded with the paper by T. Harvey, C. Schnepf, and M. Roth that describes the design of the Triton Nested Relational Database System.

This issue contains two reports. The first, by G. Thomas, K. Kawagoe, R. Krishnamurthy, T. Imielinski, D. Reiner, and A. Wolski summarizes the panel discussions on Practitioner Problems in Need of Database Research that took place at the 7th international Conference on Data Engineering in Kobe, Japan, April 1991. The second report by R. Barrera, A. Frank, and K. Al-Taha covers the Workshop on Temporal Relations in Geographic Information Systems that was held at the University of Maine in October 1990.

The invited section on Database Research Centers includes two reports, one on Database Research at the IBM Almaden Research Center by L. Haas and P. Selinger, and the other on The Indiana Center for Database Systems by J. Copley. The invited section on Database Research Surveys includes a paper by A. Thomasian that describes centralized concurrency control methods for high-end TP. This issue is concluded by Announcements and Call for Papers.

Arie Segev


July, 1991

Chair's Message

The 1991 SIGMOD/PODS joint conference was held in Denver, Colorado, from May 29 to May 31. The conference drew 501 attendees, and also a modest profit is expected. It was a significant event for the database community, primarily because, as the first of the two-year SIGMOD/PODS joint conference experiment, it brought together the theoretical and systems-oriented segments of the community. Further, the new industrial sessions brought industrial speakers to address some of the important database industry concerns. The industrial sessions is a key measure for counterbalancing the academic focus of the conference. I would like to thank the organizers of both the SIGMOD and PODS portions of the conference for the fine job they they did.

In the PODS business meeting during the conference, it was decided that the joint conference will be extended to 1993 at least, using the same format that will be used for the 1992 conference.

The 1992 SIGMOD/PODS joint conference will be held in San Diego, California between June 2 and June 5: PODS on June 2 - June 4, and SIGMOD on June 3-5. Again, one registration will admit the registrant to all SIGMOD and PODS sessions, and include both proceedings. The conference reception will be on June 1, and the conference outing (at Sea World) will be on June 4. Victor Vianu and Mike Stonebraker will serve as general chair and program committee chair of the SIGMOD component of the conference. On the PODS side, Moshe Vardi is the general chair, and Paris Kannelakis is the program committee chair.

The 1993 SIGMOD/PODS joint conference will go to Washington, D.C. Larry Kerschberg and Peter Buneman will serve as general chair and program committee chair of the SIGMOD portion of the conference.

Early this year, in response to a request from the ACM Lectureship committee to all SIG chairs to nominate candidates for ACM National Lecturers for 1991-92, I had nominated 10 people. I am happy to announce that all 10 have been accepted. (I had contacted 30 people and 10 of them asked to be nominated.) The 10 ACM National Lecturers who will represent the database segment of ACM are Ami Motro, Teresa Lunt, Amit Sheth, Zbigniew Michalewicz, Sang-Hyuk Son, Ouri Wolfson, Amr E. Abbadi, Dik Lee, Gultekin Ozsoyoglu, and Sham Navathe. They will be invited by ACM's local chapters and student chapters to lecture on topics of their own choice.

In the spring, ACM invited all SIGs to participate in a new effort to form an ACM-wide interdisciplinary conference, named federated research conference. The basic idea is for the various conferences to be held jointly (same site, same dates) with some joint sessions/events -- simply put, an ACM-equivalent of the SIGMOD/PODS joint conference idea. After consulting with the SIGMOD executive committee and advisory committee, I have decided that SIGMOD did not stand to gain anything from this exercise, and decided not to have SIGMOD participate in it. The primary concerns are that the SIGMOD/PODS joint conference experiment has not reached a resolution, that SIGMOD will no longer have the latitude to pick optimal sites for its annual conference, and that the opportunity for cross-fertilization among

different disciplines seems rather remote.

Thanks to the profits from the SIGMOD conferences during the past few years, and to the institutional sponsorships (currently 8 sponsors), SIGMOD is now enjoying a healthy surplus of \$80-90,000. My predecessors (Mike Stonebraker and David DeWitt) have convinced me that I should keep a significant portion of this surplus in reserve as a cushion against potential, major losses from the SIGMOD/PODS conferences in the future. (In the past, occasional conference losses wiped out budget reserves quickly.) However, I believe that some (\$20,000) of this surplus should be put to use in expanding the services not only to the SIGMOD members but to the database community at large. In fact, I have implemented a number of measures already to this end. We now have a generous subsidy to student registrants at the SIGMOD/PODS conferences (a student registration now includes everything that a regular registration has, despite the substantial difference in registration fees); we have in effect increased the page count of the SIGMOD RECORD (with a few additional regular features); and offered free SIGMOD membership to third-world university libraries. I have received various suggestions for using a part of the surplus to provide additional services (including some at this year's SIGMOD business meeting). I have decided not to further consider some of the ideas, in particular those involving students (e.g., scholarships and best student paper awards). However, other ideas are still under consideration; and I will report to you on any of the ideas that will be implemented.

Won Kim
Austin, Texas
July 16, 1991