

Database Principles Column

ACM SIGMOD and ACM PODS (Symposium on Principles of Database Systems) have been held jointly since 1991, combining in one place the full spectrum of database research, from the most abstract and fundamental to the most pragmatic. However, while all SIGMOD members receive SIGMOD Proceedings as a special issue of *SIGMOD Record*, the PODS Proceedings are received only by those who attend the conference. It is possible that some work reported at PODS and other theory-oriented meetings may have been missed by some in the database community.

Thus, *SIGMOD Record* has decided to create a new column that will be focused on presenting recent advances in database theory in a format that will be of interest to a large database audience. This new *Database Principles Column* will contain updated versions of invited talks and tutorials at conferences such as PODS and ICDT, as well as expository papers surveying recent advances in database theory.

For the first column, I am delighted to have a paper from Serge Abiteboul, who has made fundamental contributions to both theory and practice of database systems. The column is an updated version of Serge's invited paper "On Views and XML" at PODS'99. It presents a survey of work on views, considered not in the traditional relational database setting, but rather in that of XML. The main addition to the PODS Proceedings version is a list of issues that need to be addressed by database researchers in this area.

Several forthcoming columns will contain surveys of areas that have been well represented at PODS for the past few years, and that may be of interest to a larger audience: in particular, we plan surveys on view maintenance, constraint databases, and answering queries using views. These columns, and much more, will be a part of a new PODS web page, debuting soon at the SIGMOD web site.

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