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INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR MECHANICAL SCIENCES

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ADVANCES IN DATABASE SYSTEMS
IMPLEMENTATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

EDITED BY

J. PAREDAENS

UNIVERSITY OF ANTWERP

AND

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF EINDHOVEN

L. TENENBAUM †

RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



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PREFACE

At the end of 1992 Prof. Lev Tenenbaum, from the Institute for Control Science in Moscow, took the initiative to organize a school of two weeks, "Advances in Database Systems, Implementations and Applications", in cooperation with CISM and Unesco.

CISM is the International Centre for Mechanical Sciences in Udine (Italy). For already more than twenty years it organizes schools and courses, with the purpose to favour the exchange of ideas and experiences among experienced and young scientists all over the world.

Lev asked me to coordinate the school together with him. From then on we had a fruitful cooperation, which resulted in the final program of the school which was held in Udine September 13-24, 1993.

Advanced information technology is pervasive in any kind of human activity - science, business, finance, management and others - and this is particularly true for database systems. Both database theory and database applications constitute a very important part of the state of the art of computer science. Meanwhile there is some discrepancy between different aspects of database activity. Theoreticians are sometimes not much aware of the real needs of business and industry; software specialists not always have the time or the opportunity to get acquainted with the most recent theoretical ideas and trends, as well as with advanced prototypes arising from these ideas; potential users often do not have the possibility of evaluating the theoretical foundations and the potential practical impact of different commercial products. So the main goal of the course was to put together people involved in different aspects of database activity and to promote active exchange of ideas among them.

Several specialists from all over Europe were invited to give one or more lectures: F. Arcieri (Rome), P. Atzeni (Rome), A. D' Atri (L'Aquila), H. Bruggemann (Hildesheim), R. Jungclaus (Braunschweig), B. Thalheim (Cottbus), P. Widmayer (Zurich), L. Tenenbaum

(Moscow) and J. Paredaens (Antwerp). The school was a success and was attended by about 30 people from Asia, Africa and Europe.

Less than three months after the school, in full preparation of the present proceedings, the Russian computer science community got a terrible shock: on December 6 1993, Lev Tenenbaum died in a fatal car accident in Moscow. In honour of my friend Lev, I finished the preparation of the proceedings with the help of many colleagues. Especially I thank Prof. Fuad Aleskerov from the same institute as Lev, who finished Levs paper that appears in this Volume. I also thank Paolo Serafini who was responsible for the administrative organization of the school and who did an excellent job.

I am sure that these proceedings can give an insight in some modern aspects of database systems to many readers and I hope they will always remember the Russian Computer Scientist, Prof. Lev Tenenbaum, who took the initiative and was the active motor of this work.

J. Paredaens

CONTENTS

	Page
Preface	
Acyclic Hypergraphs and Relational Databases (A Survey) <i>by L. Tenenbaum</i>	1
Foundations of Database Systems: An Introductory Tutorial <i>by J. Paredaens</i>	29
Requirements and Design Issues of Spatial Data Handling Systems <i>by E. Apolloni, F. Arcieri, L. Barella and M. Talamo</i>	49
HERMES: An Integrated Approach to Modelling Data Base Systems Design <i>by F. Arcieri, E. Apolloni, L. Barella and M. Talamo</i>	71
The Weak Instance Model <i>by P. Atzeni and R. Torlone</i>	95
Concepts for Database Privacy <i>by H.H. Brüggemann</i>	115
Database Security, Policies and Mechanisms <i>by H.H. Brüggemann</i>	125
Object-Oriented Authorization <i>by H.H. Brüggemann</i>	139
A Browsing Theory and its Application to Database Navigation <i>by A. D'Atri and L. Tarantino</i>	161
An Application of the MILORD System to Handle Radiological Data <i>by G. Di Stefano, M.V. Marabello and A. D'Atri</i>	181
Object-Oriented Design of Information Systems: Theoretical Foundations <i>by H-D. Ehrich, R. Jungclaus, G. Denker and A. Sernadas</i>	201
Object-Oriented Design of Information Systems: TROLL Language Features <i>by G. Saake, T. Hartmann, R. Jungclaus and H-D. Ehrich</i>	219
GOAL, A Graph-Based Object and Association Language <i>by J. Hidders and J. Paredaens</i>	247

Database Design Strategies <i>by B. Thalheim</i>	267
Semantical Constraints for Database Models <i>by B. Thalheim</i>	287
A Brief Tutorial Introduction to Data Structures for Geometric Databases <i>by T. Ohler and P. Widmayer</i>	329
Data Structures and Algorithms for Geographic Information Systems: Selected Topics <i>by T. Ohler and P. Widmayer</i>	353
Geographic Information Systems: An Example <i>by T. Ohler and P. Widmayer</i>	365