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Preface

The main topics in modern database theory are: theoretical fundamentals of the relational data model (dependency theory, design theory, null values, query processing, complexity theory), and of its extensions (graphical representations, NF²-models), conceptual modelling of distributed database management systems and the relationship between logic and databases. Much research work is done in this field, and there seems to be a need for an intensive exchange of experience. Therefore the new series of MFDBS conferences are organized every odd year. The first one was held in Dresden, German Democratic Republic, January, 19 - 23, 1987.

This volume contains a representative selection of papers presented by participants from 12 countries. A short summary of the two panel discussions is also enclosed. The volume is intended to be a reflection of the current state of knowledge and a guide to further development in this field.

I wish to thank the Program Committee chaired by J. Demetrovics and B. Thalheim, and the proceedings editors J. Biskup, J. Demetrovics, J. Paredaens and B. Thalheim for their efforts and all the participants for making the conference a success.

J. Bormann

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