Lecture Notes in Computer Science 1973

Edited by G. Goos, J. Hartmanis and J. van Leeuwen

Springer
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Jan Van den Bussche Victor Vianu (Eds.)

Database Theory – ICDT 2001

8th International Conference
London, UK, January 4-6, 2001
Proceedings

Springer

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Cataloging-in-Publication Data applied for

Die Deutsche Bibliothek - CIP-Einheitsaufnahme

Database theory : 8th international conference ; proceedings / ICDT 2001, London, UK, January 4 - 6, 2001. Jan VandenBussche ; Victor Vianu (ed.). - Berlin ; Heidelberg ; New York ; Barcelona ; Hong Kong ; London ; Milan ; Paris ; Singapore ; Tokyo : Springer, 2000
(Lecture notes in computer science ; Vol. 1973)
ISBN 3-540-41456-8

CR Subject Classification (1998): H.2, F.1.3, F.4.1, I.2.1, H.4, F.2, H.3

ISSN 0302-9743
ISBN 3-540-41456-8 Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York

Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York
a member of BertelsmannSpringer Science+Business Media GmbH

Printed in Germany

Typesetting: Camera-ready by author, data conversion by PTP-Berlin, Stefan Sossna
Printed on acid-free paper SPIN: 10781153 06/3142 5 4 3 2 1 0

Preface

The papers contained in this volume were presented at ICDT 2001, the 8th International Conference on Database Theory, held from 4 to 6 January 2001 in the Senate House of Birckbeck College, University of London, UK.

The series of ICDT conferences provides a biennial, international forum for the communication of research advances on the principles of database systems. ICDT is traditionally held in beautiful European locations: Rome in 1986, Bruges in 1988, Paris in 1990, Berlin in 1992, Prague in 1995, Delphi in 1997, and Jerusalem in 1999. Since 1992, ICDT has merged with the Symposium on Mathematical Fundamentals of Database Systems (MFDBS), initiated in Dresden in 1987, and continued in Visegrad in 1989 and Rostock in 1991.

This volume contains 26 papers describing original research on fundamental aspects of database systems, selected from 75 submissions. The paper by Chung Keung Poon was awarded as Best Newcomer to the field of database theory. In addition, this volume contains two invited papers by Leonid Libkin and Philip Wadler. A third invited talk was given by Andrei Broder.

We wish to thank all the authors who submitted papers, the members of the program committee, the external referees, the organizing committee, and the sponsors for their efforts and support.

Jan Van den Bussche
Victor Vianu

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