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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 Birkbeck 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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