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Bernhard Thalheim (Ed.)

Conceptual Modeling – ER '96

15th International Conference
on Conceptual Modeling
Cottbus, Germany, October 7-10, 1996
Proceedings



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Preface

The papers published in these proceedings were contributed for presentation at the Fifteenth International Conference on Conceptual Modeling (ER '96), held in Cottbus, Germany, from October 7-10, 1996.

In response to the call for papers, approximately 110 papers were submitted for review, 29 of which were selected by the program committee for ten sessions covering the topics: advanced schema design, processes, query languages, representation, integration, principles of database design, transformation, enhanced modeling, capturing design information and last but not least, evolution. The program committee's outstanding job in refereeing the papers and composing a challenging program is acknowledged here with sincere thanks.

The invited speakers Heikki Mannila, Johann Makowsky, and Charlie Bachman presented their views respectively in the following talks: Schema Design and Knowledge Discovery, Translation Schemes and the Fundamental Problem of Database Design, Impact of Object Oriented Thinking on ER Modeling.

A tutorial program, coordinated by a dedicated Mike Papazoglou, began the week's event. Research themes presented by the experts were: database cooperation: classification and middleware tools, modeling the enterprise with objects, objects and rules: an emerging synergy, and reuse at the conceptual design level: models, methods and tools.

Extending and complementing the main program were parallel events such as an international exhibition on ER CASE tools and four workshops, one on Business Process Modeling, another on ER concepts in Software Engineering, a third on Challenges of Applications and lastly, Challenges of Design.

We trust that ER '96 continues the well established and respected tradition in providing colleagues with an international forum for the understanding of current research in conceptual modelling, facilitating the exchange of experience gained in this field, and encouragement in the discussion of future research directions.

Our special thanks go to Bernhard Thalheim and his team in Cottbus for their enthusiasm and untiring efforts in organizing the conference on the banks of the Spree.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the success of ER '96, the authors, invited speakers, session chairs, tutors, industrial chairs, and participants.

Hamburg, October 1996

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External Referees

Aberer, Karl
 Albrecht, Meike
 Altus, Margita
 Arisawa, Hiroshi
 de Barros, Roberto S. M.
 Bastian, Dörte
 Bax, Marcello
 Bloesch, Anthony
 Böhm, Klemens
 Bonnet, Christine
 Campbell, Linda
 Claßen, Ingo
 Clauß, Wolfram
 Colby, Latha
 Conrad, Stefan
 Creasy, Peter
 Düsterhöft, Antje
 Eiter, Thomas
 Erkollar, Alptekin
 Ewald, Cathy
 Fan, Wenfei
 Fankhauser, Peter
 Fellner, Klement J.
 Filippidou, Despina
 Fischer, Gisela
 Georgalas, Nectarios
 Heuser, Carlos
 Hochin, Teruhisa
 Hofstede, Arthur ter
 Kardasis, Panos
 Kaschek, Roland
 Kavakli, Evagelia

Klar, Markus
 Klas, Wolfgang
 Klimathianakis, Polivios
 Kop, Christian
 Kottl, Claudia
 Lee, Joseph
 Lee, Mong Li
 Leone, Nicola
 Liddle, Stephen W.
 Lieuwen, Daniel
 Liu, Chengfei
 Loos, Peter
 McAllester, David
 Medeiros, Claudia Bauzer
 Millius, Frank
 Mok, Yin Wai
 Ng, Yiu-Kai
 de Oliveira, José Palazzo M.
 Ribeiro, Berthier A. N.
 Riecke, John G.
 Schewe, Klaus-Dieter
 Schmitt, Ingo
 Schrefl, Michael
 Shioya, Isamu
 Teo, Pit Koon
 Türker, Can
 Tzanaki, Anna
 Waßeröth, Susanne
 Wijsen, Jef
 Woodfield, Scott
 Wortmann, Jan

Contents

Keynotes

Impact of Object Oriented Thinking on ER Modeling	1
<i>Charles W. Bachman</i>	
Translation Schemes and the Fundamental Problem of Database Design	5
<i>Johann A. Makowsky, Elena V. Rave</i>	
Schema Design and Knowledge Discovery	27
<i>Heikki Mannila</i>	

Session 1: Advanced Schema Design

Chair: *Herbert Weber*

Decomposition of Relationships Through Pivoting	28
<i>Joachim Biskup, Ralf Menzel, Torsten Polle, Yehoshua Sagiv</i>	
Understanding the Implementation of IS-A Relations	42
<i>Jean-Luc Hainaut, Jean-Marc Hick, Vincent Englebert, Jean Henrard, Didier Roland</i>	
Deductive Object Oriented Schemas	58
<i>Dimitri Theodoratos</i>	

Session 2: Processes

Chair: *Arne Sølvberg*

Verification Problems in Conceptual Workflow Specifications	73
<i>Arthur H. M. ter Hofstede, Maria E. Orlowska, Jayantha Rajapakse</i>	
Process Knowledge Modeling	89
<i>Pierre Maret, Jean-Marie Pinon</i>	
The Conceptual Database Design Optimizer CoDO - Concepts, Implementation, Application	105
<i>Martin Steeg</i>	

Session 3: Query Languages

Chair: *Opher Etzion*

ConQuer: A Conceptual Query Language	121
<i>Anthony C. Bloesch, Terry A. Halpin</i>	

Using Structural Recursion as Query Mechanism for Data Models with References	134
<i>Wolfram Clauß</i>	

Session 4: Representation

Chair: *Takao Miura*

A Modular Design Strategy for a Flexible Graphical Database Design Environment: An Experimental Study	146
<i>Margita Altus</i>	

Graph Based Modeling and Implementation with EER/GRAL	163
<i>Jürgen Ebert, Andreas Winter, Peter Dahm, Angelika Franzke, Roger Süttgenbach</i>	

Session 5: Integration

Chair: *Florian Matthes*

On the Applicability of Schema Integration Techniques to Database Interoperation	179
<i>Mark W. W. Vermeer, Peter M. G. Apers</i>	

Integration of Inheritance Trees as Part of View Generation for Database Federations	195
<i>Ingo Schmitt, Gunter Saake</i>	

A Formal Basis for Dynamic Schema Integration	211
<i>Love Ekenberg, Paul Johannesson</i>	

Session 6: Principles of Database Design

Chair: *Robert Meersman*

Graphical Entity Relationship Models: Towards a More User Understandable Representation of Data	227
<i>Daniel Moody</i>	
Benefits and Quality of Data Modelling - Results of an Empirical Analysis	245
<i>Ronald Maier</i>	
Normative Language Approach - A Framework for Understanding	261
<i>Erich Ortner, Bruno Schienmann</i>	

Session 7: Transformation

Chair: *Heinrich C. Mayr*

Improving Quality in Conceptual Modelling by the Use of Schema Transformations	277
<i>Petia Assenova, Paul Johannesson</i>	
An Approach to Maintaining Optimized Relational Representations of Entity-Relationship Schemas	292
<i>Altigran Soares da Silva, Alberto H.F. Laender, Marco A. Casanova</i>	
Transforming Conceptual Models to Object-Oriented Database Designs: Practicalities, Properties, and Peculiarities	309
<i>Wai Yin Mok, David W. Embley</i>	

Session 8: Enhanced Modeling

Chair: *Gunther Saake*

Representing Partial Spatial Information in Databases	325
<i>Thodoros Topaloglou, John Mylopoulos</i>	
Specification of Calendars and Time Series for Temporal Databases	341
<i>Jae Young Lee, Ramez Elmasri, Jongho Won</i>	
View-Centered Conceptual Modelling - An Object Oriented Approach	357
<i>Klaus-Dieter Schewe, Bettina Schewe</i>	

Session 9: Capturing Design Information

Chair: *Gerhard Rodé*

Reverse Engineering of Relational Database Physical Schema 372

Isabelle Comyn-Wattiau, Jacky Akoka

Extracting N-ary Relationships Through Database Reverse Engineering ... 392

Christian Soutou

Inheritance as a Conceptual Primitive 406

Roland Kaschek

iO2: An Algorithmic Method for Building Inheritance Graphs
in Object Database Design 422

Amina Yahia, Lofti Lakhal, Rosine Cicchetti, Jean-Paul Bordat

Session 10: Evolution

Chair: *Markus Stumptner*

Workflow Evolution 438

Fabio Casati, Stefano Ceri, Barbara Pernici, Giuseppe Pozzi

A Model for Classification Structures with Evolution Control 456

Moiria C. Norrie, Andreas Steiner, Alain Würzler, Martin Wunderli

Integrating Versions in the OMT Models 472

Eric Andonoff, Gilles Hubert, Annig Le Parc, Gilles Zurfluh

Author Index 489