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Proceedings



**2000 International Database Engineering
and Applications Symposium**

Foreword

IDEAS 2000 is the fourth in a series of meetings addressing the engineering aspect of databases and their applications for developing reliable systems for complex applications. The inaugural and the third IDEAS symposiums were held in Montreal, hosted by Concordia University. The second in this series was hosted by Cardiff University.

This volume contains the papers selected for presentation at this conference, hosted by Keio University. It includes 36 papers selected from some 90 submissions. In addition, it contains 12 short papers and the summaries of the invited talk and the keynote speech. Each of the submissions was reviewed by at least three members of the program committee, followed by on-line discussions. We would like to thank all authors who submitted their work to the symposium.

The database community is turning its attention to non-traditional applications and semi-structured data. This is reflected in the number of submissions dealing with the Web, XML, geographical, and other applications. These applications are pushing the frontier of knowledge and establishing novel ways of dealing with information overload as we enter the new millennium—the so-called “information age.”

IDEAS has emerged as a valuable forum which addresses, in a timely manner, the complex problems of managing and mining data from databases. The engineering of new methodologies to provide rapid and reliable implementation and solutions to these problems involves drawing on the expertise in many areas of computer science, including the growing trend in engineering of reliable and safe software systems. It is gratifying to see that the database research community has adopted the IDEAS symposia to address current issues related to the information age by reporting on the experience in building reliable advanced database applications, user interfaces to these applications, emerging data modeling and database theories, and technology.

I wish to express my gratitude to the many people at Keio University, particularly Professors Kiyoki and Toyama, who have provided active support for IDEAS 2000, and the local organizing committee, for arranging this meeting on short notice and providing excellent facilities for it. The Program Committee and the referees have ensured the quality of the symposium through meticulous referring of the submitted papers. I would also like to thank Concordia University, Keio University, and IEEE Computer Society for providing support to make IDEAS 2000 possible.

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Table of Contents

2000 International Database Engineering and Applications Symposium

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Foreword | ix |
| Conference Organizers | x |
| IDEAS 2000 Reviewers | x |

Session 1: Opening talk

Chair: Yasushi Kiyoki

Opening Address

Bipin C. Desai

| | |
|--|---|
| Business-to-Business Connectivity and Emerging Protocols for E-Biz | 3 |
| <i>Daniel Dias, IBM T.J. Watson Research Center</i> | |

Session 2: Formalism

Chair: Timos Sellis

| | |
|--|----|
| A Formal Background to Build Constraint Objects | 7 |
| <i>A. Di Deo and D. Boulanger</i> | |
| Information Filtering and Personalization in Databases Using Gaussian Curves | 16 |
| <i>G. Specht and T. Kahabka</i> | |
| A Study on the Interaction between Interscheme Property Extraction and Type Conflict Resolution | 25 |
| <i>G. Terracina and D. Ursino</i> | |

Session 3: Querying: Objects, Web

Chair: Domenico Sacca

| | |
|---|----|
| The Hybrid Technique for Reference Materialization in Object Query Processing | 37 |
| <i>Q. Wang, D. Maier, and L. Shapiro</i> | |
| Fuzzy Functional Dependency and its Application to Approximate Data Querying | 47 |
| <i>R. Intan and M. Mukaidono</i> | |
| SISQL: Schema-Independent Database Querying (On and off the Web) | 55 |
| <i>U. Masermann and G. Vossen</i> | |
| Querying Databases with Knowledge Domains | 65 |
| <i>W. Ng</i> | |

Session 3a: Applications I

Chair: Joachim Biskup

| | |
|---|-----|
| Design of RapidBase—An Active Measurement Database System | 75 |
| <i>A. Wolski, J. Kuha, T. Luukkanen, and A. Pesonen</i> | |
| StreamJoin: A Generic Database Approach to Support the Class of Stream-Oriented Applications | 83 |
| <i>C. Nippl, R. Rantza, and B. Mitschang</i> | |
| How to Reuse Former Queries to Facilitate the Formulation of New Ones | 92 |
| <i>C. Oussalah and A. Serial</i> | |
| Data Caching for Telephony Services | 101 |
| <i>T. Carpenter, R. Carter, M. Cochinwala, and M. Eiger</i> | |

Session 4: Untangling the Web

Chair: Gottfried Vossen

| | |
|--|-----|
| Metadata Based Web Mining for Relevance | 113 |
| <i>J. Yi and N. Sundaresan</i> | |
| KhojYantra: An Integrated MetaSearch Engine with Classification, Clustering and Ranking | 122 |
| <i>R. Mishra and T. Prabhakar</i> | |
| Fuzzy and Presentation Algebras for Web and Multimedia Data..... | 134 |
| <i>E. Bertino, D. Montesi, and A. Trombetta</i> | |

Session 5: Keynote Speech

Chair: Motomichi Yoyoma

| | |
|--|-----|
| Databases Supporting Changes in Changing Worlds—The Case Spatio-Temoral Database Systems..... | 145 |
| <i>Timos Sellis, NTU, Athens, Greece</i> | |

Session 6: Dealing with Time

Chair: Daniel Dias

| | |
|---|-----|
| Calculating Worst-Case Execution Times of Transactions in Databases for Event-Driven, Hard Real-Time Embedded Systems..... | 149 |
| <i>A. Münnich and G. Färber</i> | |
| The Vagabond Temporal OID Index: An Index Structure for OID Indexing in Temporal Object Database Systems..... | 158 |
| <i>K. Nørvåg</i> | |
| Representation of Definite, Indefinite and Infinite Temporal Information..... | 167 |
| <i>P. Chountas and I. Petrounias</i> | |

Session 7: Data Marts and Warehouses

Chair: Jaroslav Pokorný

| | |
|--|-----|
| Bulk Loading a Data Warehouse Built upon a UB-Tree | 179 |
| <i>R. Fenk, A. Kawakami, V. Markl, R. Bayer, and S. Osaki</i> | |
| Efficient Maintenance of Temporal Data Warehouses | 188 |
| <i>S. de Amo and M. Alves</i> | |
| FCompress: A New Technique for Queriable Compression of Facts and Datacubes..... | 197 |
| <i>P. Furtado and H. Madeira</i> | |
| Application of SuperSQL Query Language for the Migration from a Relational to an Object-Oriented Database | 207 |
| <i>S. Udoguchi, T. Iijima, M. Toyama</i> | |

Session 7a: Applications and Concerns I

Chair: Richard McClatchey

| | |
|--|-----|
| Keeping Web Pages Up-to-Date with SQL:1999 | 219 |
| <i>H. Loeser</i> | |
| Architecture for the Interaction and Access on Multimedia Database Systems in the Context of Mobile Environments..... | 224 |
| <i>G. Flach and N. Günther</i> | |
| Algorithms for Cartogram Animation | 231 |
| <i>M. Ouyang and P. Revesz</i> | |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Query Result Size Estimation Using the Trapezoidal Attribute Cardinality Map | 236 |
| <i>B. Oommen and M. Thiagarajah</i> | |
| Measuring the Contributions of (O)RDBMS to Object-Oriented Software Development | 243 |
| <i>W. Zhang and N. Ritter</i> | |
| An Integration System of Web Information Sources for Mobile Users..... | 250 |
| <i>W. Sae-Tung, T. Ohmori, and M. Hoshi</i> | |
| Session 8: XML and DB | |
| <i>Chair: Peter Revesz</i> | |
| An XML-Based Architecture for Adaptive Web Hypermedia Systems Using a Probabilistic User Model | 257 |
| <i>M. Cannataro and A. Pugliese</i> | |
| XML Functionally | 266 |
| <i>J. Pokorny</i> | |
| Modeling and Querying XML-Data | 275 |
| <i>S. Flesca, S. Greco, and E. Zumpano</i> | |
| Session 9: Concurrency and Access | |
| <i>Chair: Bala Iyer</i> | |
| Concurrency Control for B-Trees with Differential Indices | 287 |
| <i>K. Pollari-Malmi, J. Ruuth and E. Soisalon-Soininen</i> | |
| Speculation Based Nested Locking Protocol to Increase the Concurrency of Nested Transactions | 296 |
| <i>P. Reddy and M. Kitsuregawa</i> | |
| A Study of MBR-Based Spatial Access Methods: How Well They Perform in High-Dimensional Spaces..... | 306 |
| <i>R. Orlandic and B. Yu</i> | |
| Session 10: Multimedia Access | |
| <i>Chair: Uwe Hohenstein</i> | |
| Multimedia Data Access Based on the Sensitivity Factors..... | 319 |
| <i>T. Hochin, K. Yamada, and T. Tsuji</i> | |
| Enabling Hypermedia Videos in Multimedia Database Systems Coupled with Realtime Media Servers | 327 |
| <i>W. Lindner, H. Berthold, F. Binkowski, A. Heuer, and K. Meyer-Wegener</i> | |
| Resiliency and Robustness of Alternative Shape-Based Image Retrieval Techniques | 337 |
| <i>M. Safar, C. Shahabi, and C.-H. Tan</i> | |
| Session 11: Distributed Systems | |
| <i>Chair: B. John Oommen</i> | |
| Open Active Services for Data-Intensive Distributed Applications | 349 |
| <i>C. Collet, G. Vargas-Solar, and H. Grazziotin-Ribeiro</i> | |
| Mediated Information Gain..... | 360 |
| <i>J. Biskup and D. Embley</i> | |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Supporting Data Migration between Relational and Object-Oriented Databases Using a Federation Approach | 371 |
| <i>U. Hohenstein</i> | |
| Plug and Play with Query Algebras: SECONDO A Generic DBMS Development Environment..... | 380 |
| <i>S. Dieker and R. Güting</i> | |
| Session 11a: Applications and Concerns II | |
| <i>Chair: Guenther Specht</i> | |
| Path Query Reduction and Diffusion for Distributed Semi-Structured Data Retrieval | 393 |
| <i>J. Lee, Y. Chung, and M. Kim</i> | |
| Implementation and Performance Analysis of Incremental Equations for Nested Relations | 398 |
| <i>J. Liu, M. Vincent, and M. Mohania</i> | |
| Dynamic Performance Optimization Mechanism for Parallel Object-Oriented Database Programming Languages..... | 405 |
| <i>K. Kimura, H. Amano, and A. Makinouchi</i> | |
| A Cost Function for Uniformly Partitioned UB-Trees | 410 |
| <i>V. Markl and R. Bayer</i> | |
| Time is the Shadow of Reactive Behavior | 417 |
| <i>M. Berndtsson and J. Hansson</i> | |
| Materializing a Set of Views: Dynamic Strategies and Performance Evaluation | 424 |
| <i>Z. Bellahsene and P. Marot</i> | |
| Session 12: Applications II | |
| <i>Chair: Teruhisa Hochin</i> | |
| Wrapping WWW Information Sources | 431 |
| <i>M. Montebello</i> | |
| What Can Partitioning Do for Your Data Warehouses and Data Marts?..... | 437 |
| <i>L. Bellatreche, K. Karlapalem, M. Mohania, and M. Schneider</i> | |
| Author Index | 447 |

Session 1

Opening Talk

Business-to-Business Connectivity and Emerging Protocols for E-Biz

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Summary

For many years EDI served as the dominant protocol for e-biz over private networks. Due to the rapid spread of the Internet, several new Business-to-Business (B2B) interaction protocols have become popular, e.g., Open Buying on the Internet (OBI), RosettaNet, and Vendor-defined protocols such as Ariba's Punchout process. We will describe these protocols, with an emphasis on their similarity and differences. B2B marketplaces are emerging as hubs through which suppliers connect to buyers. We outline the connectivity requirements between these marketplaces, and the Marketplace-to-Marketplace (M2M) protocols that are required.

We show how all of these emerging protocols can be specified in XML using a trading partner agreement (TPA). The TPA specifies three layers in the B2B protocol: The transport, document exchange and business protocol layers. Essentially, the transport layer provides a choice of transport such as HTTP, SMTP, FTP, and specifies related information; the document exchange layer handles different message formats, transformations, application level security including authentication and non-repudiation, and provides services such as audit trails and document repositories; the business protocol layer specifies the sequence of the B2B interactions, responsiveness criteria, and error handling.

From the TPA, an instantiation of the B2B protocol can be built. We describe a Business to Business Protocol Framework (BPF), on which different protocols across autonomous businesses can be instantiated. Our work has the potential to decrease the time of implementation of e-biz solutions. BPF provides a comprehensive set of tools and enablers for ease of specification, configuration, plug-in, customization, and execution of a set of TPAs between business partners. It is the gateway and coordinator across intra-business and inter-business processes, (e.g., between the buy/sell component of a local business, the remote businesses, and the back-end systems). The protocols are expressed as an electronic TPA in XML using a higher level authoring tool and are registered to the BPF server along with the internal business processes for setting up such B-B interactions. BPF uses database services for various functions including guaranteed delivery, recovery and message repositories. As examples, we show how OBI and Ariba's punchout processes can be specified with TPAs and implemented with BPF.

Session 2

Formalism

A Formal Background to build Constraint Objects

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Abstract

Constraint databases exploit a fundamental duality: a constraint (first-order formula) with free variables is interpreted as a set of database tuples that satisfy it. And, conversely, a database object can be viewed as a constraint. This enables us to use constraints as basic data types in the underlying DBMS and to enjoy expressiveness of first-order logic and most advantages from constraint programming.

Most of the existing frameworks consider the relational data model as a basic data representation model and use linear constraints to represent complex objects. This is not always efficient. Moreover, modern DBMS offer much more than a simple set of relational tables. Therefore, we focus on the definition and formal background for an implementation of a constraint data model to be built on the top of an object-relational DBMS. As an illustration, our approach is capable to exploit existing spatial tools (like the one from Oracle8) yielding the declarativeness and expressiveness of constraint programming.

Keywords: constraint databases, cylindric algebras, constraint objects, spatial relations.

1. Introduction

With the increasing complexity of applications that store and manage spatial and temporal data, Database Management Systems are facing new challenges to efficiently represent and query such data, preserving the declarative and user-friendly features of the query languages. It has been acknowledged for a long time that the relational model fails to handle highly complex data and their operations. For this reason, the existing commercial DBMS are addressing the use of object-oriented models, and provide tools to represent complex objects and to reason with them efficiently. For instance, in the area of spatial applications, Oracle8

has developed a Spatial Cartridge ([1]) that no longer manages complex geometrical shapes as sets of points stored in the tables, but uses specially designed data types and operations to handle spatial data efficiently.

Spatial data constitute an example of multidimensional data to which a large effort has been devoted. In most cases [15, 18] the models consist in extending relational DBMSs with abstract spatial data types encapsulating geometric structures and operations. Due to the extensive range of applications, the problem of developing and unifying data models still remains open, when a facility to manipulate different data in a uniform way is needed.

The recent fields of constraint databases, initiated at the beginning of the decade [16], has lead to sound data models and query languages for multi-dimensional data [10, 12, 15]. The big challenge of constraint databases is to introduce constraints as basic data type in databases. The main principles are based on a simple and fundamental duality that a constraint can be seen as a relation, or, vice versa, that a relation can be interpreted as a simple form of constraint. This enables us to manipulate relations in the underlying DMBS in a symbolic way enjoying expressive power of first-order logic. That is, the syntax consists of constraints, i.e. symbolic expressions; the semantics are the corresponding relations. From this data modeling perspective, constraints are used as a unifying data type for the representation of different sorts of multi-dimensional data.

Most of the existing frameworks rely on linear constraints, first appeared in [13, 20]. They allow to manipulate relations of arbitrary dimension between points in a symbolic manner. In spite of their expressiveness, the existing constraint databases are not always efficient enough for real problems where the size and the complexity of data are high. In particular, spatial data might be so complex, e.g. non-convex geometries with multiple holes, that constraint database models cannot handle them efficiently and need to refer to optimized structures of the objects and operations