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Foreword

Database research is a field of computer science where theory meets applications. Several database concepts and methods that yesterday were regarded as issues of more theoretical interest are fundamental parts of today's implemented systems. Examples abound in the fields of database design, query languages, query optimization, concurrency control, statistical databases, and many others.

The papers presented in this volume were presented at ICDT'95, the International Conference on Database Theory, in Prague, January 10-13, 1995. ICDT is an international forum for research on the principles of database systems. It is organised every two years and has a tradition of being held in beautiful European cities, Rome in 1986, Bruges in 1988, and Paris in 1990. From 1992 on, when the conference was held in Berlin, ICDT has been merged with another series of conferences on theoretical aspects of database systems, known as the Symposium on Mathematical Fundamentals of Database Systems (MFDBS). MFDBS was initiated in Dresden in 1987, and continued in Visegrad (1989) and Rostock (1991). ICDT should enhance the exchange of ideas and cooperation within a unified Europe and between Europe and the other continents.

ICDT'95 was organized jointly by:

Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University of Prague;
Christian Doppler Laboratorium für Expertensysteme, Wien;
Vienna University of Technology

The conference was also sponsored by

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In addition to 29 technical papers selected from 116 submissions, the conference featured the following two invited presentations: *Data on Air – What's in it for the Database Theorist* by Tomasz Imielinski and *Spatial Databases, the Final Frontier* by Jan Paredaens. The conference also featured the following state-of-the-art tutorials: *Parallel Database Systems* by Gerhard Weikum and *Languages for Polynomial-time Queries – an Ongoing Quest* by Phokion G. Kolaitis.

The members of the program committee were:

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We would like to sincerely thank all program committee members, as well as the external referees, for their care in evaluating the submitted papers.

Prague, January 1995

Georg Gottlob and Moshe Y. Vardi
Program Co-Chairs

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