Editor's Notes

Welcome to the June 2002 issue. This is the first time that SIGMOD Record has the June issue as a regular issue instead of SIGMOD Proceedings. We have a full issue with seven regular articles, three book reviews, two workshop reports, two reminiscences on influential papers, and one contribution from each of the following five feature columns: Database Principles, Distinguished Database Profiles, Standards, Surveys, Systems and Prototypes.

In the regular research Articles section, the first paper discusses the importance of ordering semantics in data processing and presents an algebraic foundation for query optimizers to incorporate ordering semantics into their existing frameworks. The second paper addresses retrieval problems that the authors experienced in experimental high-energy physics applications. An interesting index technique is proposed based on space partitioning techniques for handling terabytes or petabytes of multi-dimensional data. The third paper describes a pictorial approach to querying geographic databases. The fourth and fifth papers report author's experiences, as database researchers, with two standard efforts – XQuery and MPEG-7. We also include the part one of an article that reviews a representative collection of methods for checking cluster validity in data mining. Part focuses on external and internal criteria in judging cluster validity. This section closes with an article describing an interesting approach to map a ternary entity relationship to relational tables.

The Distinguished Database Profiles section features an interview with David DeWitt by Marianne Winslett. David shared with us his experiences and insights on a wide variety of issues that are of general interests to the SIGMOD community, including the rethinking of CS curriculum, research funding, DB theory, query optimization, and supercomputing. The Book Reviews section contains three contributions. The introduction, by Karl Aberer, provides a summary of the reviews on the three data mining and data warehousing related books published in recent years. This issue also includes a comparison of several Web data extraction tools, by Alberto Laender and his colleagues, in the Surveys section, an overview of the Phoenix project by Roger Barga and David Lomet, in the Systems & Prototypes section. The Phoenix project in Microsoft research has been developing solutions to providing application recovery efficiently and transparently. The Standards section includes an article on the progress of SQL/XML standard effort by Andrew Eisenberg and Jim Melton. The issue ends with an interesting article by Ronald Fagin, sharing his expertise and understanding on combining fuzzy information.

I would like to thank the associate editors and the authors for their invaluable contributions to this issue. I hope this issue will provide some interesting Summer reading for SIGMOD members.

Ling Liu

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