

PREFACE

This volume contains the papers presented at the Eighth International Conference on Very Large Data Bases (also known as VLDB), which was held September 8th through 10th, 1982 at the Maria Isabel-Sheraton Hotel in Mexico City, Mexico. This Conference is the eighth in the series of annual VLDB Conferences, which have been held continuously since 1974 in the USA, Belgium, Japan, West Germany, Brazil, Canada, and France. Their goal has been to foster the research, development, and application of data base and related systems. Since the inception of VLDB, data base technology has progressed from its infancy to a fairly mature stage. Although many of the fundamental concepts have been expounded and many commercial products are available, much remains to be done. The frontiers of this successful technology are still unbounded.

This year's VLDB Conference has therefore adopted the theme of expanding the horizons of data base technology and its applications. As examples of this focus, we have included sessions on novel applications of data base management systems such as computer-aided design and manufacture (CAD/CAM) and statistical data bases. Naturally, we have not forgotten the traditional concerns of data base systems in which progress is still significant, such as the user interface, semantics, and constraints.

All the papers presented in the Conference and reported in this proceedings have gone through a very rigorous selection process. To maintain the traditional quality of the Conference, the Program Committee selected only 27 papers from over 150 papers submitted. Six invited papers of special topics that have gone through a special refereeing process and five panel sessions of current interest augment this research portion of the technical program. In addition, the Conference includes a full day of tutorials integrated into the technical sessions to form the complete technical program.

Since its initiation, VLDB has become internationally renowned as a leading forum on data base technology. It is truly an international conference with participants from many nations in different continents. This year's Conference is no exception. Its technical program includes participants from more than ten countries.

As is the case with other conferences, many individuals have contributed greatly in bringing the Conference to fruition. In particular, the Organizing Committee members of VLDB, as well as individuals like P. Hsiao and S. Gaines, have provided very substantial support in organizing the Conference, much beyond that normally expected of any individual. Their contributions are gratefully acknowledged here. The Conference is also greatly indebted to our sponsors: the VLDB Endowment, IFIP (International Federation of Information Processing), INRIA (Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique), Colegio de Postgraduados in Chapingo Mexico, and IBM de México. Without their help, this Conference would not have been possible. In addition, we wish to thank Almaden Travel for its valuable support; the efforts of C. Beck (of Almaden Travel) far exceeded that of his position as the Conference Travel Coordinator. Last but not least, we thank the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) of the United States for providing some travel support to U.S. scientists to attend the Conference.

The Organizing Committee