

PREFACE

The VLDB conferences are dedicated to provide an international forum for presentation of current research in the Data Base field, for the exchange of ideas and experiences, for discussing future directions in data base systems.

This Eleventh Conference of the Very Large Data Base series profits heavily from the proud traditions of the VLDB conferences. Over the years, the VLDB conferences have developed to become the single most important international forum where Data Base researchers meet to present their findings. The current conference enforces this central position of the VLDB conferences.

This year there was a total of 298 submitted papers from 32 different countries, in all continents. Only 45 of the papers could be accepted, which indicates that we have got an exceptionally high scientific and professional quality of the conference proceedings.

The collection of papers in this proceeding offers a comprehensive and penetrating analysis of the fundamental issues in data base systems, and of current development trends. The number and quality of the submitted papers reflect the importance that data based systems have in practical applications. The trend towards more research in knowledge bases and engineering data bases is very visible at this current conference. The presentation of research results in these emerging fields together with presentation of new work in classical fields like physical organization and performance issues, provides a good environment for crossfertilization of ideas.

Major credit for the success of the conference goes to all of our colleagues who submitted papers for consideration and to those who organize and participate in the panel sessions.

Many persons have contributed numerous hours to plan, organize, coordinate and prepare for this conference. The names of most of those who donated their spare time appear on the next pages. In particular we wish to thank the Program Committee Co-chairmen Alain Pirotte and Yannis Vassiliou, the Organization Committee Chairman Lars S oderlund, and the Program Coordinator Janis Bubenko.

Arne S olvberg
General Conference Chairman