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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS IN CHIEF

We are delighted to present the inaugural edition of Volume 18 of PVLDB (Proceedings of the VLDB). PVLDB is dedicated to showcasing original research papers that encompass a wide spectrum of subjects within the realm of data and information management, processing, and analysis. Our coverage spans from fundamental theoretical principles and cutting-edge system architectures to innovative models, techniques, novel applications, and the comprehensive assessment and deployment of large-scale solutions. In our research track, we feature four equally significant categories of papers: (a) regular research, (b) scalable data science (SDS), (c) experiment, analysis & benchmark (EA&B), and (d) vision papers.

PVLDB is committed to providing valuable and constructive feedback through a rigorous review process, where detailed checks are made to avoid plagiarism and conflicts of interest of the persons involved in the reviewing process. All submissions undergo meticulous peer review by a team of accomplished associate editors and experienced reviewers. Each paper receives comprehensive evaluation from a minimum of three reviewers, along with the oversight of an associate editor. During a three-week discussion phase, reviewers engage in a thorough exchange of perspectives, ultimately converging on a consensus, which is summarized in a meta-review. Some submissions may proceed to a revision phase, affording authors a 2.5-months window to refine their work for subsequent review cycles. A subset of submissions may now proceed through an additional formal shepherding phase, where an assigned shepherd collaborates with the authors to ensure the paper's final version meets the required standards. Accepted papers are subsequently published in the journal and then presented at the forthcoming VLDB conference.

In comparison to previous volumes of PVLDB, this year, we have introduced a series of measures to ensure a smoother and more robust reviewing process. In particular, we have significantly enlarged our review board, paying special attention to diversity across all dimensions; we have enlisted several rapid response reviewers in advance that can quickly step in when an additional review or expert opinion is needed; and we have implemented a unified (submission and reviewing) timeline for both regular and revision track papers.

Alongside the continued use of the Conference Management Toolkit (CMT) to oversee submissions, reviews, and revisions, we leverage the capabilities of the Toronto Paper Matching System (TPMS) for suggesting review assignments, the Conflict of Interest Detection & Management System (CLOSET) for identifying potential conflicts of interest, and iThenticate for detecting instances of plagiarism.

Authors are expected to provide supplementary materials, such as code, data, and other implementation components, which were employed in generating the reported results in their paper. As part of the meta-review process for accepted submissions, Associate Editors assess the availability of supplemental materials, ensuring their openness and permanence, as well as the readability of instructions for the reuse of the artifacts by other members of the community. Accepted papers that furnish supplementary materials in accordance with the availability requirement receive an official ACM badge.

This first issue of PVLDB's Volume 18 includes six papers, spanning the topics of query processing and optimization, distributed graph analytics, data management on new hardware, machine learning for databases, and databases for machine learning. Out of the six papers, one was a straight accept, and five were accepted after revision. One paper is in the scalable data science (SDS) category, and the rest are regular research papers.

We are very grateful to our board of associate editors and reviewers, as well as our proceedings chairs, who contribute enormously to the operation and success of PVLDB.

Nesime Tatbul and Themis Palpanas
Editors-in-Chief of PVLDB Vol. 18
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