# Table of Contents

Foreword ................................................................. vii
Program Committee Members and External Reviewers ................. ix

## Invited Papers

Automatic Verification of Database-Driven Systems: A New Frontier

*Victor Vianu* ........................................................... 1–13

Datalog±: A Unified Approach to Ontologies and Integrity Constraints

*Andrea Calì, Georg Gottlob, and Thomas Lukasiewicz* .......... 14–30

## Research Sessions

### Inconsistency and Repairs

Repair Checking in Inconsistent Databases: Algorithms and Complexity

*Foto Afrati and Phokion Kolaitis* .................................. 31–41

Consistent Query Answering under Primary Keys: A Characterization of Tractable Queries

*Jef Wijsen* .................................................................... 42–52

On Approximating Optimum Repairs for Functional Dependency Violations

*Solmaz Kolahi and Laks V.S. Lakshmanan* ............... 53–62

### Data Exchange

Structural Characterizations of Schema-Mapping Languages

*Balder ten Cate and Phokion Kolaitis* ............................ 63–72

Query Languages for Data Exchange: Beyond Unions of Conjunctive Queries

*Marcelo Arenas, Juan L. Reutter, and Pablo Barceló* .......... 73–83

Querying Data Sources That Export Infinite Sets of Views

*Bogdan Cautis, Alin Deutsch, and Nicola Onose* ............ 84–97

### Data Structures and Algorithms

Optimal Splitters for Database Partitioning with Size Bounds

*Kenneth Ross and John Cieslewicz* ............................... 98–110

Efficient Data Structures for Range-Aggregate Queries on Trees

*Hao Yuan and Mikhail J. Atallah* .................................. 111–120

Faster Join-Projects and Sparse Matrix Multiplications

*Rasmus R. Amossen and Rasmus Pagh* ......................... 121–126
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uncertain Databases</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Compositional Query Algebra for Second-Order Logic and Uncertain Databases</td>
<td>Christoph Koch</td>
<td>127–140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Logical Account of Uncertain Databases based on Linear Logic</td>
<td>Sungwoo Park and Seung-won Hwang</td>
<td>141–148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Compositional Framework for Complex Queries over Uncertain Data</td>
<td>Michaela Goetz and Christoph Koch</td>
<td>149–161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XML</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incremental XPath Evaluation</td>
<td>Henrik Björklund, Wouter Gelade, Marcel Marquardt, and Wim Martens</td>
<td>162–173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficient Asymmetric Inclusion Between Regular Expression Types</td>
<td>Dario Colazzo, Giorgio Ghelli, and Carlo Sartiani</td>
<td>174–182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How Big Must Complete XML Query Languages Be?</td>
<td>Clemens Ley and Michael Benedikt</td>
<td>183–200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Querying</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towards a theory of search queries</td>
<td>George H. L. Fletcher, Jan Van den Bussche, Dirk Van Gucht, and Stijn Vansummeren</td>
<td>201–211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconcilable Differences</td>
<td>Todd Green, Zachary Ives, and Val Tannen</td>
<td>212–224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Processes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOP-K Projection Queries for Probabilistic Business Processes</td>
<td>Daniel Deutch and Tova Milo</td>
<td>239–251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streams, Data Mining, Complexity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tight results for clustering and summarizing data streams</td>
<td>Sudipto Guha</td>
<td>268–275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of Sampling Techniques for Association Rule Mining</td>
<td>Venkatesan Chakaravarthy, Vinayaka Pandit, and Yogish Sabharwal</td>
<td>276–283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Average-Case Complexity of Counting Distinct Elements</td>
<td>David Woodruff</td>
<td>284–295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provenance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Containment of Conjunctive Queries on Annotated Relations</td>
<td>Todd Green</td>
<td>296–309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optimizing User Views for Workflows</td>
<td>Olivier Biton, Susan Davidson, Sanjeev Khanna, and Sudeepa Roy</td>
<td>310–323</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The papers here were presented at the 12th International Conference on Database Theory (ICDT ’09), held in St. Petersburg, Russia, March 23–25, 2009. Until this year, ICDT was held every two years, with the preceding ICDT being held in 2007. From now on, ICDT will be held annually. Beginning this year, ICDT is being held jointly with EDBT (“Extending Database Technology”). EDBT is being held on March 24–26, 2009.

In response to a Call for Papers, 77 submissions were received by the submission deadline of August 14, 2008. All were submitted electronically through EasyChair. EasyChair was also used for the Program Committee deliberations, which were held completely electronically. The Program Committee selected 25 papers for presentation. The paper “Repair Checking in Inconsistent Databases: Algorithms and Complexity” by Foto Afrati and Phokion Kolaitis, was selected for the ICDT Best Paper Award. The paper “Containment of Conjunctive Queries on Annotated Relations”, by Todd J. Green, was selected for the ICDT Best Student Paper Award. In addition, there are two Keynote Speakers: Georg Gottlob and Victor Vianu. Furthermore, Umesh Dayal is a Keynote Speaker for EDBT.

The submissions were not formally refereed and many of these papers represent reports of continuing research. It is expected that most of them will appear in a more polished and complete form in scientific journals. The Program Committee would like to thank all authors who submitted papers for consideration. The committee is very grateful to the large number of members of the community (listed separately) who assisted the committee in assessing the merits of the submissions. I thank Alexandre Evfimievski (the ICDT Publicity Chair), Boris Novikov (the EDBT/ICDT local organizer), and Jens Teubner (the EDBT/ICDT Proceedings Chair) for their excellent work. I thank Andrei Voronkov, the developer of EasyChair, for his easy-to-use system and for his support. Finally, I thank the Program Committee for their hard work, their dedication to the thankless task of paper selection, and for their wisdom.

Ronald Fagin
IBM Almaden Research Center
ICDT 2009 Program Committee Chair
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