

Foreword

This special issue is based on a selected subset of high-quality papers from the *International Conference on Database Theory (ICDT)*. Preliminary reports on these papers appeared in the *Proceedings of the 3rd ICDT*, held in Paris, France, December 1990 (with one exception: the second paper appeared in the *Proceedings of the 2nd ICDT*, held in Bruges, Belgium, in August 1988).

ICDT is a biennial conference on database theory, which focuses on dynamic aspects of databases, logic and deductive databases, complexity and optimization, object-oriented databases, data models and query languages. The 4th ICDT took place in Berlin, Germany, in October 1992.

All the selected papers were reviewed and refereed after the conference. The journal versions contain full proofs of the results presented at the conference and, in many cases, more recent results.

We thank the authors, the ICDT program committees, the referees, and the editorial board of *Theoretical Computer Science* for their cooperation in putting together this issue.

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Guest Editors