Foreword

The Eighth International Conference on Scientific and Statistical Database Management (8 SSDBM) held in Stockholm, Sweden, June 18-20, 1996, was organized in cooperation with the IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Data Engineering, the VLDB Endowment, and the International Association for Statistical Computing. The conference provides a forum for the presentation and exchange of current research in the field of scientific and statistical database management. The Eighth SSDBM continues the tradition of providing a stimulating environment to encourage discussion and the exchange of ideas in a quiet and attractive setting.

We received 52 contributions in response to the call for papers and each paper was carefully reviewed by at least three members of the program committee. The conference chairs then selected 18 research papers for presentation during the regular sessions of the conference. These sessions include Fundamental Issues in Statistical Database Management, Current Problems in Scientific Databases, New Systems, Implementation Methods (two sessions), Applications of Data and Process Modeling, and Requirements and Design.

Six papers were designated as position papers for two panel discussions; one titled “Design Principles for Statistical Databases,” and the other “Managing Scale and Complexity in Scientific Databases.”

The program for the Eighth SSDBM also includes three invited papers by recognized scientific leaders in the fields of Data Mining, Statistical Metadata, and Climatological Modeling. In addition to serving as overviews for important application domains, these three lectures are intended to provide fuel for further discussions on how database technology can and should be applied to the scientific and statistical domain areas.

We would like to thank all of the authors who submitted papers. The quality of the submissions, and the resulting technical program, clearly demonstrate that this application area of database technology is fast becoming of major importance.

The program committee members deserve special thanks for their self-sacrificing efforts, which, together with that of the contributors, is a sine qua non for the formation of a high-quality scientific program. We would also like to recognize and thank J. Barros, A. Cslilaghy, G. Fahl, S. Flodin, M.A. Gennert, H. Hauska, K.A. Meier, B. Rieche, N. Rump, F. Schlotke, D. Schmidt, M. Sköld, S. Taylor, C. Viles, R. Vingralek, M. Werner, and R. Wilson, who served as external reviewers for the conference.

In addition, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to our sponsors: the Centre for Geoinformatics in Stockholm (CGI), the National Defence Research Establishment (FOA), Statistics Sweden (SCB), the Swedish Natural Science Research Council (NFR), the Swedish Research Council for Engineering Science (TFR), and the Swedish National Board for Industrial and Technical Development (Nutek).

Last but not least, we would like to thank Marianne Edlundh, Hans Hauska, Kerstin Hellström, Erik Malmborg and Tore Risch for their work with the local arrangements, as well as for their help in the planning and administration of all the conference preparations.

Welcome to the Eighth SSDBM! We hope that you find it stimulating, thought-provoking, enlightening, but most of all, fun.

Per Svensson
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