Book Review

Answering Queries Using Views
Foto Afrati and Rada Chirkova
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This book with nine chapters address the Queries used in database systems with good explanation and tools. The opening chapter on Queries and Views provide an overview and structure of queries. The 'views' is explained very lucidly and its connation in the functionality is also shown. Querying with views is well illustrated with cases.

The containment tests for conjunctive queries forms the part of the second chapter where the authors query containment treat with comprehensive approach. It is followed by various exercises. In the next chapter the authors have treated the query containment and query equivalence to find rewriting of queries.

The chapter on Maximally Contained Rewritings composed of a discussion on MS algorithm and Miniconstruction Description. The MCD properties and structure are well contained in the extended discussions. Exercises relating to the queries and views are finally provided.

The chapter on Answering Queries in Presence of Dependencies discussed the query containment issues and equivalent and maximally contained rewritings for the cases. The discussion on equivalent rewriting is the unique character of this chapter. The sixth chapter is on Answering Queries in Data Exchange. The feature of the chapter is the provision of several theorems and exercises. The next chapter treats the Answering queries with views provide the types of queries and answering.

The eighth chapter of the Bibliographical note deals and specifies the sources used in this book. This feature is unique as normally other books do not provide such notes. The last chapter is the conclusion which is brief followed by extensive bibliography.

Many chapters provide preliminaries which enable the reader to understand the concepts contained in. We do hope that this volume introduces good overview of queries in database systems and enables the good understanding.

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