

# Contents

|                                                           |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Introduction                                           | 1  |
| 2. A Standard Deductive Database System                   | 5  |
| 2.1 Horn Clause Logic                                     | 5  |
| 2.1.1 Syntax and Informal Semantics                       | 5  |
| 2.1.2 Semantics                                           | 6  |
| 2.2 Deductive Databases                                   | 8  |
| 2.2.1 Syntax                                              | 9  |
| 2.2.2 Model-Theoretic Semantics                           | 11 |
| 2.2.3 Fixpoint Semantics                                  | 14 |
| 2.2.4 Further Definitions                                 | 15 |
| 2.2.5 Lists and Sets                                      | 18 |
| 2.3 The Deduction Process                                 | 19 |
| 2.3.1 The Backward Reasoning Phase                        | 20 |
| 2.3.2 The Optimization Phase                              | 20 |
| 2.3.3 The Forward Chaining Phase                          | 21 |
| 2.3.4 The Rule/Query Tree                                 | 22 |
| 2.3.5 Code Generation                                     | 26 |
| 2.4 Range-Restriction, Safety and Effective Computability | 29 |
| 3. An Expert Deductive Database System                    | 33 |
| 3.1 Algorithm = Logic + Control                           | 33 |
| 3.2 Architecture                                          | 35 |
| 3.3 Possibilities of Deduction Control                    | 45 |
| 4. Discarding Irrelevant Tuples                           | 47 |
| 4.1 Introduction                                          | 47 |
| 4.2 Necessary Conditions                                  | 53 |
| 4.3 Propagating Necessary Conditions                      | 57 |
| 4.4 Recursively Necessary Conditions                      | 62 |
| 4.5 Propagating Recursively Necessary Conditions          | 72 |
| 4.6 Pruning Conditions                                    | 76 |
| 4.7 Specifying and Propagating Conditions                 | 78 |
| 4.8 Query-Time Actions                                    | 86 |
| 4.9 The Magic Set Method                                  | 88 |
| 4.10 Complexity Functions                                 | 91 |

|                                                    |     |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 5. Disregarding Irrelevant Rules                   | 99  |
| 5.1 Introduction                                   | 99  |
| 5.2 Equivalent Deductive Databases                 | 103 |
| 5.3 Irrelevant Rules                               | 109 |
| 5.4 Specifying Relevant Rules                      | 110 |
| 5.5 Query-Time Actions                             | 115 |
| 6. Explicit Termination of Recursion               | 117 |
| 6.1 Introduction                                   | 117 |
| 6.2 Bounded Recursion                              | 119 |
| 6.3 Specifying the Number of Iteration Steps       | 121 |
| 6.4 Query-Time Actions                             | 123 |
| 7. Preferring Useful Rules                         | 125 |
| 7.1 Introduction                                   | 125 |
| 7.2 Specifying which Rules to Prefer               | 128 |
| 7.3 Query-Time Actions                             | 130 |
| 7.4 Using Information about the EDB                | 132 |
| 8. Preferring Useful Tuples                        | 134 |
| 8.1 Introduction                                   | 134 |
| 8.2 Specifying which Tuples to Prefer              | 137 |
| 8.3 Query-Time Actions                             | 139 |
| 9. Summary and Outlook                             | 141 |
| Appendix A: Sloppy Delta-Iteration Schemes         | 143 |
| A.1 The Tuple-Driven Sloppy Delta-Iteration Scheme | 145 |
| A.2 The Rule-Driven Sloppy Delta-Iteration Scheme  | 147 |
| Literature                                         | 149 |
| Index                                              | 153 |