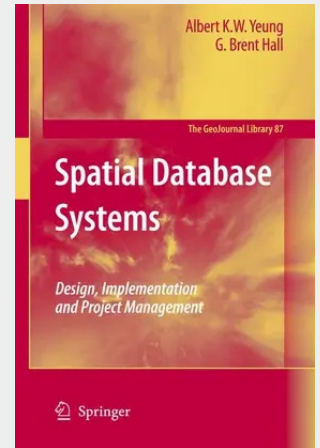


Spatial Database Systems

Design, Implementation and Project Management

The decision to write this book was motivated by a number of factors. First, although several useful textbooks on spatial databases have recently been published, this is an area of spatial information science that has lagged somewhat behind the rapid advances of the technology and the profusion of books on domain-specific applications. Second, much of the information pertaining to spatial database technologies is only available in scattered journal papers and conference proceedings, and prior to this book no single effort has been made to sift through this expansive literature and unite the key contributions in a single volume. The tasks of sourcing and coherently integrating relevant contributions is daunting for students, many of whom have a substantial number of competing demands placed on them. This book should make the task of knowledge building less daunting. Third, and perhaps most importantly, an apparent trend in many spatial information science programs is to focus, from first or second year undergraduate through to fourth year courses, on learning to work confidently and independently with increasingly complex software tools. Hence, many courses are technical in nature, and while they continue to produce technically adept students, knowledge of the broader aspects of spatial databases is often not as complete as it might be among graduates. Some programs have sought to address this by introducing courses that focus on spatial data management. However, these courses are largely unsupported by a relevant and contemporary textbook.

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