

E. F. Codd's relational model of data has been described as one of the three greatest inventions of all time (the other two being agriculture and the scientific method), and his receipt of the 1981 ACM Turing Award—the top award in computer science—for inventing it was thoroughly deserved. The papers in which Codd first described his model were staggering in their originality; they had, and continue to have, a huge impact on just about every aspect of the way we do business in the world today. And yet few people, even in the professional database community, are truly familiar with those papers. This book is an attempt to remedy this sorry state of affairs. In it, well known author C. J. Date provides a detailed examination of all of Codd's major technical publications, explaining the nature of his contribution in depth, and in particular highlighting not only the many things he got right but also some of the things he got wrong.

Of course, database theory and practice have evolved considerably since Codd first defined his relational model, back in 1969. This book draws on decades of experience to present the most up to date treatment of the material possible. Anyone with a professional interest in databases can benefit from the insights it contains. The book is product independent.

C. J. Date has a stature that is unique in the database industry. He is best known for his textbook *An Introduction to Database Systems* (Addison-Wesley). He enjoys a reputation that is second to none for his ability to explain complex technical issues in a clear and understandable fashion.



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E. F. Codd AND RELATIONAL THEORY

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A Detailed Review and Analysis
of Codd's Major Database Writings

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