Understanding, modeling, and improving main-memory database performance

Manegold, S.

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Acknowledgements

My first visit to Amsterdam during an InterRail-tour through Europe in summer 1992 lasted only a few hours and left an impression of anything else but hospitality: All left-luggage lockers occupied, endless queues in front of the left-luggage office, and sightseeing while carry a heavy backpack was not much fun. It took another 5 years, a move from C. where I had studied to B. where I got my first (real) job, two much more pleasant visits in summer 1997, during which A. presented itself in an almost Mediterranean atmosphere, and finally a job offer, to convince me that Amsterdam might be a place to life and work. However, with the contract signed and everything else arranged, there was no need anymore for a Mediterranean atmosphere, hence, when I arrived on October 1st 1997 it started raining and did not stop until March 1998... Nevertheless, I did stay, enjoyed life and work in Amsterdam, and eventually wrote this booklet.

Although only one name appears on the cover, this thesis would not exist without the direct or indirect support of various helpful people who accompanied me during the last five years, both locally and remotely. I take this opportunity to express my thanks to all of them.

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