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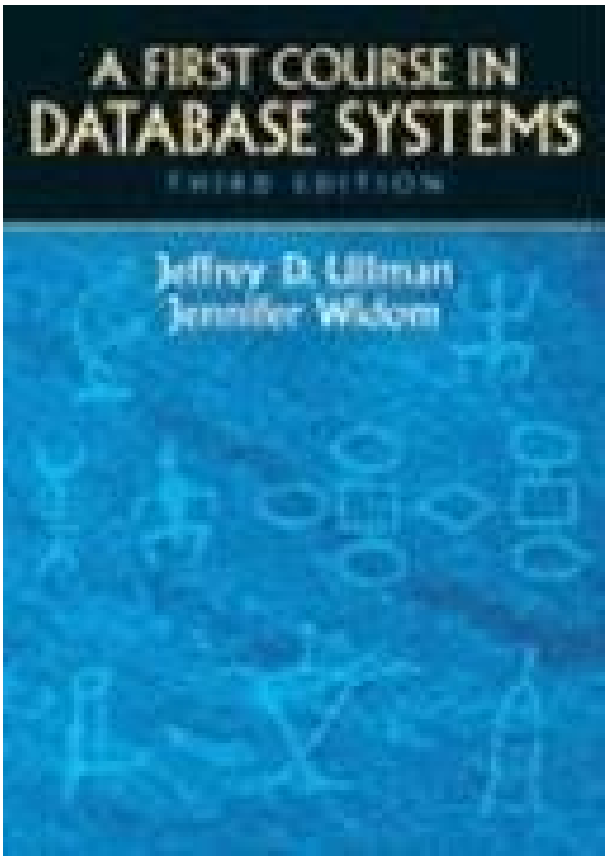

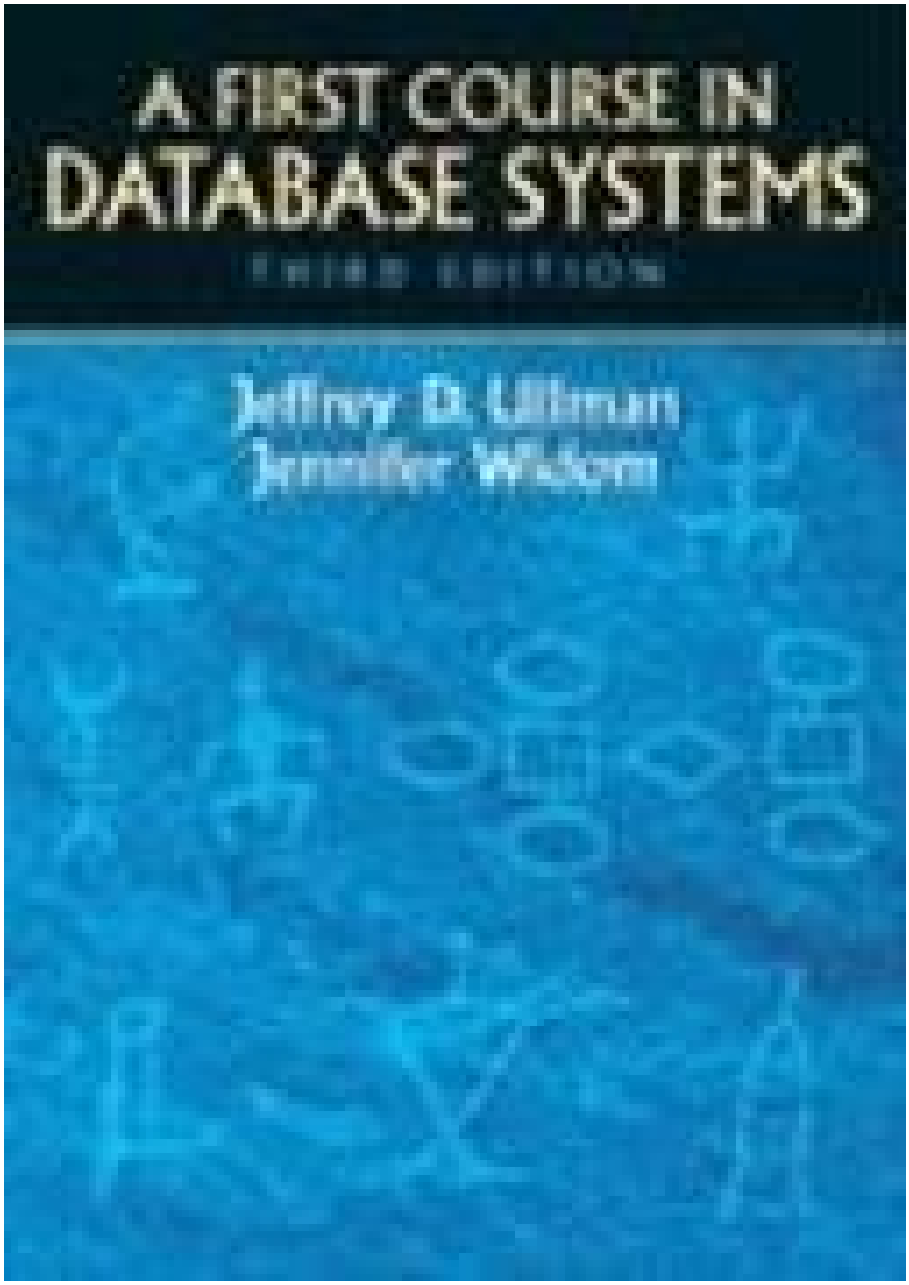

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Written by two well-known computer scientists, Jeffrey Ullman and Jennifer Widom of Stanford University, this concise introduction to Database Systems offers an accessible, user-oriented approach. It covers the latest database standards--OQL, ODL, SQL2, and SQL3--with detailed explanations of how to use ODL and E/R to design databases. The book also features excellent coverage of SQL with more depth than most other texts. The aim of this book is to cover the material most useful to the majority of database students -- databases from the point of view of the database designer, user, and application programmer. It focuses on database design, use, and implementation of database applications. It does not cover the implementation of database management systems. The book is suitable for advanced undergraduates and beginning MS or PhD students.

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There's a reason the used price hews...
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There is a reason the used price for this book hews so closely to the list price: the book is a high-quality piece that is extraordinarily well written and easy to follow as well as deeply imbued with a great deal of information.
I currently have three titles in my list of "all-time great Computer Science books" -- from the selectivity it should be clear how difficult it is to earn a spot on said list -- and this is the third book on it (in order of date read, not quality). The other two are Patterson & Hennessy's Computer Organization and Design and W. Richard Stevens's TCP/IP Illustrated, Vol. 1.
I was not particularly interested in databases -- the subdiscipline -- prior to taking the course for which I purchased this book. I must say though that the combination of straight-forward descriptions and easy to quickly grasp examples makes this topic ever more accessible.
The canonical examples provided -- consistent throughout and extended as new topics are broached -- as well as the relaxed yet careful language utilized throughout make this book a solid and worthwhile investment. More of an investment than the book itself (any book), though, is the time spent reading it. I was careful to read the book extraordinarily thoroughly -- even short snippets underneath examples and what have you -- and every time in doing so I was rewarded for this extra investment of time with enhanced knowledge and understanding. There is very little that is superfluous in this book yet at the same time every description is adroit; no description leaves you wondering about some aspect or another: the book is exceedingly thorough.

13 of 14 people found the following review helpful.
An excellent text for someone that is new to databases
By A Customer
This was the text used for my first course in databases several years ago. It is written in plain english and I find that to be one of its primary strengths as it is geared towards people with no experience at all with databases.

24 of 29 people found the following review helpful.
A Mixed Review
By A Customer
When I saw that Jeffrey Ullman had a new Database text out I was excited, since my work focus has now moved into that area. I have read and learned from many of Ullman's books, such as the famous Dragon

(compiler design) book, as well as the "White" (automata) book and his two texts on computer algorithms. These are classics and should be on the bookshelf of everyone who calls him/herself a computer scientist.
This book is, however, a little disappointing. Most of it is good, some of it very good. But I do find some flaws in it. One of the glaring flaws deals with the attempt to extend the relational model from sets to bags (basically, to allow for duplicate tuples in relations.) This is the best attempt I've seen at formalizing "bag theory", but it introduces problems (some minor, others very serious) that aren't mentioned in the text. This review is too short and not the right place to expound on these problems. Chris Date's database text goes into most of them in substantial detail.
In summary, this book is good, with many good examples. I find it very readable. But it is not as good as Chris Date's Intro to Database Systems for the serious database professional. Ullman's book is good for showing another perspective to Date's solid (but somewhat opinionated) treatment of relational database theory.

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