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Zhi-Hua Zhou Takashi Washio (Eds.)

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Preface

The First Asian Conference on Machine Learning (ACML 2009) was held at Nanjing, China during November 2–4, 2009. This was the first edition of a series of annual conferences which aim to provide a leading international forum for researchers in machine learning and related fields to share their new ideas and research findings.

This year we received 113 submissions from 18 countries and regions in Asia, Australasia, Europe and North America. The submissions went through a rigorous double-blind reviewing process. Most submissions received four reviews, a few submissions received five reviews, while only several submissions received three reviews. Each submission was handled by an Area Chair who coordinated discussions among reviewers and made recommendation on the submission. The Program Committee Chairs examined the reviews and meta-reviews to further guarantee the reliability and integrity of the reviewing process. Twenty-nine papers were selected after this process.

To ensure that important revisions required by reviewers were incorporated into the final accepted papers, and to allow submissions which would have potential after a careful revision, this year we launched a “*revision double-check*” process. In short, the above-mentioned 29 papers were *conditionally accepted*, and the authors were requested to incorporate the “*important-and-must*” revisions summarized by area chairs based on reviewers’ comments. The revised final version and the revision list of each conditionally accepted paper was examined by the Area Chair and Program Committee Chairs. Papers that failed to pass the examination were finally rejected.

After the reviewing process, 27 papers were accepted for oral presentation at the conference. ACML 2009 was a single-track conference which enabled all the accepted papers to have good visibility for all the audience. These 27 papers are included in this conference proceedings. In addition to the accepted submissions, the conference proceedings also include articles or extended abstracts of the keynote speech given by Thomas Dietterich, and invited talks given by Masashi Sugiyama and Qiang Yang.

ACML 2009 would not have been a success without the support of many people and organizations. We wish to sincerely thank the Area Chairs, Program Committee members and external reviewers for their efforts and engagements in providing a rich and rigorous scientific program for ACML 2009. We wish to express our gratitude to our General Chairs, Hiroshi Motoda and Jian Lu, for their invaluable support and concerns, to the Tutorial Chair, Tu Bao Ho, for selecting and coordinating the fruitful tutorials, to the keynote speaker, Thomas Dietterich, and invited speakers, Masashi Sugiyama and Qiang Yang, for their insightful talks, and to the tutorial speakers, Wray Buntine, Nitesh Chawla and Hang Li. We are also grateful to the Local Arrangements Chairs, Yang Gao and

Ming Li, as well as the Local Organizing Committee, whose great effort ensured the success of the conference.

We greatly appreciate the support from various institutions. The conference was organized by the LAMDA Group of Nanjing University, Nanjing, China. We are also indebted to the National Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and IEEE Computer Society Nanjing Chapter for sponsoring the conference.

Last but not least, we also want to thank all authors and all conference participants for their contribution and support. We hope all participants took this opportunity to share and exchange ideas with one another and enjoyed ACML 2009.

August 2009

Zhi-Hua Zhou
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Table of Contents

Keynote and Invited Talks

Machine Learning and Ecosystem Informatics: Challenges and Opportunities	1
<i>Thomas G. Dietterich</i>	
Density Ratio Estimation: A New Versatile Tool for Machine Learning	6
<i>Masashi Sugiyama</i>	
Transfer Learning beyond Text Classification	10
<i>Qiang Yang</i>	

Regular Papers

Improving Adaptive Bagging Methods for Evolving Data Streams	23
<i>Albert Bifet, Geoff Holmes, Bernhard Pfahringer, and Ricard Gavaldà</i>	
A Hierarchical Face Recognition Algorithm	38
<i>Remco R. Bouckaert</i>	
Estimating Likelihoods for Topic Models	51
<i>Wray Buntine</i>	
Conditional Density Estimation with Class Probability Estimators	65
<i>Eibe Frank and Remco R. Bouckaert</i>	
Linear Time Model Selection for Mixture of Heterogeneous Components	82
<i>Ryohei Fujimaki, Satoshi Morinaga, Michinari Momma, Kenji Aoki, and Takayuki Nakata</i>	
Max-margin Multiple-Instance Learning via Semidefinite Programming	98
<i>Yuhong Guo</i>	
A Reformulation of Support Vector Machines for General Confidence Functions	109
<i>Yuhong Guo and Dale Schuurmans</i>	
Robust Discriminant Analysis Based on Nonparametric Maximum Entropy	120
<i>Ran He, Bao-Gang Hu, and Xiao-Tong Yuan</i>	

Context-Aware Online Commercial Intention Detection	135
<i>Derek Hao Hu, Dou Shen, Jian-Tao Sun, Qiang Yang, and Zheng Chen</i>	
Feature Selection via Maximizing Neighborhood Soft Margin	150
<i>Qinghua Hu, Xunjian Che, and Jinfu Liu</i>	
Accurate Probabilistic Error Bound for Eigenvalues of Kernel Matrix . . .	162
<i>Lei Jia and Shizhong Liao</i>	
Community Detection on Weighted Networks: A Variational Bayesian Method	176
<i>Qixia Jiang, Yan Zhang, and Maosong Sun</i>	
Averaged Naive Bayes Trees: A New Extension of AODE	191
<i>Mori Kurokawa, Hiroyuki Yokoyama, and Akito Sakurai</i>	
Automatic Choice of Control Measurements	206
<i>Gayle Leen, David R. Hardoon, and Samuel Kaski</i>	
Coupled Metric Learning for Face Recognition with Degraded Images . . .	220
<i>Bo Li, Hong Chang, Shiguang Shan, and Xilin Chen</i>	
Cost-Sensitive Boosting: Fitting an Additive Asymmetric Logistic Regression Model	234
<i>Qiu-jie Li, Yao-bin Mao, Zhi-quan Wang, and Wen-bo Xiang</i>	
On Compressibility and Acceleration of Orthogonal NMF for POMDP Compression	248
<i>Xin Li, William K. Cheung, and Jiming Liu</i>	
Building a Decision Cluster Forest Model to Classify High Dimensional Data with Multi-classes	263
<i>Yan Li and Edward Hung</i>	
Query Selection via Weighted Entropy in Graph-Based Semi-supervised Classification	278
<i>Krikamol Muandet, Sanparith Marukatat, and Chohwich Nattee</i>	
Learning Algorithms for Domain Adaptation	293
<i>Manas A. Pathak and Eric H. Nyberg</i>	
Mining Multi-label Concept-Drifting Data Streams Using Dynamic Classifier Ensemble	308
<i>Wei Qu, Yang Zhang, Junping Zhu, and Qiang Qiu</i>	
Learning Continuous-Time Information Diffusion Model for Social Behavioral Data Analysis	322
<i>Kazumi Saito, Masahiro Kimura, Kouzou Ohara, and Hiroshi Motoda</i>	

Privacy-Preserving Evaluation of Generalization Error and Its Application to Model and Attribute Selection	338
<i>Jun Sakuma and Rebecca N. Wright</i>	
Coping with Distribution Change in the Same Domain Using Similarity-Based Instance Weighting	354
<i>Jeong-Woo Son, Hyun-Je Song, Seong-Bae Park, and Se-Young Park</i>	
Monte-Carlo Tree Search in Poker Using Expected Reward Distributions	367
<i>Guy Van den Broeck, Kurt Driessens, and Jan Ramon</i>	
Injecting Structured Data to Generative Topic Model in Enterprise Settings	382
<i>Han Xiao, Xiaojie Wang, and Chao Du</i>	
Weighted Nonnegative Matrix Co-Tri-Factorization for Collaborative Prediction	396
<i>Jiho Yoo and Seungjin Choi</i>	
Author Index	413